Cannock & Rugeley
CHRONICLE
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COUNTING COST OF FLOOD CHAOS

By Pippa Armstrong

STAFFORDSHIRE is still counting the cost of the shocking storms which wreaked havoc across the county.

Power supplies were cut off, main roads flooded and roads have been left damaged by the flash flooding.

'Extensive' flood damage has forced Great Wyrley Community Centre to be closed for at least a fortnight following the bank holiday weekend's torrential downpours.

The parish council says the building's electrical system also needs to be checked before the centre can be opened to the public.

"We are in the process of contacting all of those who have bookings at the centre at present," the council's chairman Helen Snape posted on social media.

"We can only apologise but these circumstances are beyond our control."

Councillor Snape said: "The damage to our flooring is extensive. I am sorry to announce that the community centre will be closed until at least Monday, June 11."

The thunder and lightning storms followed by torrential rain caused mayhem across Staffordshire, the Black Country and the West Midlands.

Rescue

One elderly man lost his life after his vehicle was submerged in the rising waters underneath a railway bridge on the Lichfield Road, at Rushall, Walsall.

Eyewitnesses said a resident and council worker had desperately tried to rescue the victim, diving into the floodwater at around 2am and trying to break the van window with a hammer. However, the man was taken to hospital and pronounced dead a short time later.

Main roads were badly affected by flooding with the M54, A41 and A5 closed at various times after being blocked. RAF Cosford was closed because surrounding roads were submerged. Flood alerts remained in place in some parts of the region for a few days following the torrential downpours.

Many homes were left without power on Sunday afternoon and evening following the lightning strikes. Cannock's Asda supermarket was also forced to open late on Bank Holiday Monday because of problems caused by the storms.

The Environment Agency issued a number of flood warnings for rivers in Staffordshire reporting that the region had seen a month's rainfall in one hour in some areas.

● Pictures – See Page 2

TIFT DRAWS ON TALENT TO IMMORTALISE SUBJECTS

Great Wyrley's Andrew Tift features in his own work of art at a major solo exhibition at the New Art Gallery in Walsall

INTERNATIONALLY-RENOWNED portrait artist Andrew Tift has launched his latest exhibition back on his home turf.

The 'Immortalise' exhibition by Andrew, who hails from Great Wyrley, is being showcased at The New Art Gallery in Walsall.

It brings together new and previous works including paintings, drawings, sketchbooks and for the first time, a series of photographs.

A highlight is a portrait of the late former MP Tony Benn loaned to the gallery by Parliament. In 1998, Andrew was commissioned to create the portrait for the Parliamentary Art Collection.

In it, Benn sits on a chair once owned by the first leader of the Independent Labour Party, Keir Hardie, and is surrounded by objects significant to his personal or political life.

These include a drawing from a primary school in his Bristol constituency, a miner's lamp, his RAF wings, a small bust of Karl Marx, a bottle of North Sea oil, a collection of pipes and even his daily Mars Bar. Immortalise was launched on Thursday and runs until September 2.

Born in 1968, Andrew went to Great Wyrley High School, and as a young boy, he would amuse himself by copying album covers. He also studied at Stafford College of Art and the University of Central England, Birmingham.

For more information on the free exhibition visit thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk/exhibition/andrew-tift-immortalise.

MONEY

Neighbours strike it lucky with win on Postcode Lottery

THREE neighbours struck gold on Bank Holiday Monday as they were announced as the winners of People's Postcode Lottery's Daily Prize.

The residents of Brownhills Road, Norton Canes, scooped up £1,000 each after their postcode, WS11 9SD, was drawn

People's Postcode Lottery ambassador Judie McCourt said: "What a wonderful Monday for our winners. Make sure you sign up with your postcode to be in with a chance of winning."

A minimum of 32 per cent of ticket sales goes directly to charities and players of People's Postcode Lottery have raised £301 million to date for 4,000 good causes across Great Britain and internationally.

One good cause close to the winners that players have supported is Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited, which received £18,500 last year.

For more information on People's Postcode Lottery, visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk or Facebook and Twitter.

CHARITY

Bucking the trend on voluntary hours

A NATIONAL charity based in Cannock is bucking the trend as the amount of voluntary help given to charitable organisations is on the decline.

Almost 12 million people volunteer in the UK each month but the number of hours actually being donated is falling, according to the Office for National Statistics.

However, Cannock-based Newlife, which provides equipment for disabled children, has seen its volunteer hours rise by 2,000 in the last 12 months – and from 10,000 to 26,000 hours over three years.

Newlife's national volunteer manager Kevin Lowe said he had seen how carrying out unpaid work at their Hemlock Way base had helped improve volunteers' health and wellbeing.

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Best guide for entertainment

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City in tune for jazz and blues festival

Sara Gillespie – rave reviews

THE fourth Lichfield Blues and Jazz festival starts tomorrow (Friday), and organisers say tickets are selling well.

Blues legend Stan Webb's Chicken Shack, plus Northbound, are at Lichfield Sports Club in Eastern Avenue on the opening night.

The next day, local rising star Robert Jackson returns from a tour in the States, playing thumb-picking guitar with blues harp, followed by the Zoe Green Band and Emma Jonson Quartet.

Sunday features Steve Ajao Blues Giants at the Guildhall. The afternoon is rounded off by homegrown blues band The Shooters. Aside from the blues, the festival's newest venue, the Cathedral Hotel, hosts a weekend of jazz.

Imperial Strut open up proceedings tomorrow, playing the music of The Yellowjackets. Saturday afternoon will see Theo Travis Double Talk playing progressive jazz. Then the Annie Whitehead Quartet will present a 'African grooves, blustery free jazz, and driving blues with a Ellingtonian touch'.

In the evening pianist and vocalist Tom Lindsay performs swinging and funky versions of jazz standards. To complete the evening keyboard wizard Dave Ferris brings along his very funky Three Step Manoeuvre.

Jazz starts at midday on Sunday with the Tom Morgan Trio playing their versions of tunes by Chick Corea to Steve Wonder. Anglo-American songstress Sara Gillespie, whose streetwise lyrics have led to rave reviews, follows with her quartet. The Sunday session finishes with the Walsall Jazz Orchestra.

King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys bring the curtain down on the festival in the Guildhall grand finale.

Go to www.lichfield-jazz.co.uk or call 01543 262223 for tickets and details.

Big clean-up comes after stormy Sunday

Fields submerged in Penkridge as a result of the deluge

The M54 was closed for several hours after the huge storm

Moor Green Lane, in Stirchley, Birmingham
Picture: West Midlands Fire Service

Water destroyed the lounge in this Albrighton property *Picture: @TettenhallFire*

A murky scene in Walsall as the town's Arboretum shows the effects of the storm

STAFFORDSHIRE was drying out this week amid floods that caused havoc over the bank holiday weekend.

Police have confirmed that a pensioner died after his car was caught in the rising waters.

And the region has been counting the cost after a month's rainfall in one hour in some areas. Flood alerts were still in place in parts of Staffordshire and the Black Country on Monday following the torrential downpour.

And insurance companies will be facing hundreds of claims from people caught up in the deluge. That will include claims from households who would normally expect to be safe from flooding, according to a former regional transport boss.

Councillor Phil Bateman said: "The weather was absolutely horrendous and I feel for all the homeowners who are facing up to problems.

"Some people would have thought they were in a safe place, well away from known flooding areas – but when that deluge came down on baked ground it created an extraordinary body of water. It was an extraordinary amount of rain, so people who have never been flooded before were affected because of the sheer weight of water that came crashing down. I would call for the community to get involved in the great mop-up to help out people whose homes have been affected."

The Environment Agency issued flood warnings on Monday for the River Penk in Penkridge and at Acton Bridge, as well as where the River Sow and Penk meet near Stafford. A warning was also in place for the River Worfe near Pattingham.

Teenager is arrested on murder of pensioner

A TEENAGER has been arrested in connection with the murder of a pensioner.

Arthur Gumbley, 87, was attacked in a violent robbery at his own home in Endwood Drive, Little Aston.

He was left fighting for his life and died three weeks later.

Arthur Gumbley

Staffordshire Police say a 17-year-old youth, from Stoke-on-Trent, was arrested in Basingstoke, Hampshire, in connection with the murder.

He was taken into custody in Hampshire to be interviewed by officers from the force.

Cash and valuable jewellery, including a purse which belonged to Mr Gumbley's late wife, were stolen during the robbery on November 21 last year. A valuable Henry VIII Angel gold coin, believed to have been forged between 1544 and 1547, was also among the hoard, along with a unique gun-shaped knife.

Four men, aged 42, 34, 33 and 29, all from Birmingham, were previously arrested on suspicion of Mr Gumbley's murder.

They were released on bail while the investigation continues.

Leader: Council faces £37m gap

STAFFORDSHIRE County Council is facing a £37 million funding gap in 2019-20, its leader has warned.

Budget planning started six months earlier than usual and the announcement of next year's challenges came weeks into this financial year.

In July, the cabinet will consider steps needed to balance the books, and the issue was top of the agenda when council leader Philip Atkins, deputy leader Alan White and chief executive John Henderson attended a regular meeting with Staffordshire's MPs at Parliament.

"We anticipate that the funding gap for the next financial year 2019-20 – in other words the difference between the amount we have coming in and the amount we need to spend – is around £37million," Councillor Atkins said.

Two-car collision

A MAN was taken to hospital after a crash involving two cars in Rugeley. Bower Lane was closed following the incident at the junction with Wolseley Road at around 3pm on Thursday, and the injured man was taken to hospital as a precaution.

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Storm-ing show from the stars of Strictly

REVIEW: Pasha and Anya, The Magic of Hollywood, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock

IT was quite fitting that one of the numbers in this electrifying dance show was Singin' In the Rain.

It was bucketing down outside, with flash floods and even the loss of power where we live. But Strictly professionals Pasha Kovalev and Anya Garnis went down a storm on the latest leg of their Magic of Hollywood tour.

Taking on the premise of Pasha dreaming of tinseltown stardom, the show took the audience back to the golden age of cinema with routines beautifully choreographed and performed. Aided and abetted by the wonderful Domenico Palmisano, Lisa Welham, Nina Geric and Valerio La Pietra, together with the beautiful singing voice of Britt Lenting, it was expressive, daring and passionate.

Highlights included a rousing Charleston to Putting On the Ritz and a dynamic Argentine Tango which began the second half.

Each show gives the chance for a local dance school to show off their talents, and Rugeley's Class One Dance Academy can be proud of their roles in the show.

And there was also a moment in the spotlight for three lucky female audience members who got to dance with the leading man Pasha on the stage.

Mark Shipp

£295k in fines for employing illegals

BUSINESSES in the West Midlands were fined £295,000 between April and June last year for employing illegal workers.

Despite this, a survey by online vetting and screening company uCheck found that a third of British business owners still feel empathetic toward people working illegally in the UK.

The survey took in 2,800 business owners to get their honest opinion and 22.1 per cent said immigrants are 'just trying to earn a living', while 11 per cent felt that the illegal workers 'deserve the right to work'.

Those in the charity sector were the most compassionate toward illegal workers, although only just over half (52.4 per cent) felt empathy for those trying to earn a living illegally.

Branch meeting

THE Cannock branch of the Royal Engineers Association is meeting on Tuesday, June 5, at 8pm, at the Drill Hall (Army Reserve Centre) in Walsall Road, Bridgtown. All Sappers, past and present, will be welcome.

Fundraising golfer has £100k in sights

Hadrian Greensmith – 'determined'

A JCB employee is teeing up for a 60th birthday that could see his fundraising efforts nudge closer to the £100,000 mark.

Hadrian Greensmith, maintenance team leader in JCB's hydraulic business unit at the World Headquarters, has raised £78,000 through his annual charity golf day at Uttoxeter Golf Club over the past 12 years.

This year's event is being held on the day of Hadrian's 60th birthday – Friday, June 8 – with the proceeds being split between the Teenage Cancer Trust, Breast Cancer Care and the European Disabled Golf Association (EDGA).

Up to 80 golfers will take to the fairways at the Wood Lane course and help grandfather-of-two Hadrian move even closer to his ultimate target of raising £100,000 for charity.

Hadrian, of Wolesley Bridge, said: "My old workmate John Poyser and I used to organise the event together and we were a great team.

"When John died of cancer I was determined to carry on and while it's tempting to say that at 60 this year is my last, it would be a shame not to aim for £100,000." Fundraising for the EDGA has become a charity close to Hadrian's heart, following his annual visit to the Portuguese Masters Golf Tournament at Vilamoura, in 2016. While there, he and partner Joanne Jennings were astounded by the disabled golfers' skill at their championships held on the same course.

The couple returned in 2017 with a £2,000 cheque for the EDGA, raised at the Uttoxeter event,.

To enter a team of four contact Hadrian Greensmith on 07917

You're on right track, failing school is told

A FAILING school has been told it is taking 'effective action' to drag itself out of special measures.

Staffordshire University Academy (SUA), in Marston Road, Hednesford, was rated inadequate and placed in special measures by Ofsted inspectors last year.

Inspectors raised a host of concerns, including pupils' behaviour, after they witnessed some using homophobic language and throwing objects during class.

However, the school, which was formerly known as Blake High School and then Blake Valley Technology College, has now been told it is making good progress.

Simon Mosley, from Ofsted, wrote to Rowena Hillier, the headteacher at SUA, to tell her that leaders and managers at the school were 'taking effective action towards the removal of special measures'. He added that the school's improvement plan was 'fit for purpose' and ruled it could now start appointing newly qualified teachers in its strongest departments.

Effective

A delighted Mrs Hillier, who looks after around 600 pupils at the school, said: "We are pleased with many of the findings of our first monitoring visit.

"We have now officially had the confirmation, a year after being given our judgment, that we are 'taking effective action towards the removal of special measures'. We are delighted with the positive outcome of this first visit led by one of Ofsted's senior inspectors.

"We are still, however, acutely aware of the fact that there is still much to do to continue to improve our academy.

"I can assure you that all of our staff will be driving and embedding the changes needed to secure better outcomes for learners at our academy. This is an encouraging report and I hope it gives reassurance that we are absolutely on the right track and utterly determined to continue to drive forward."

Mrs Hillier had previously said she had 'no sour grapes' over the inadequate rating, despite the surge in the success of results at the school that had been achieved under her leadership.

Retired Stephen Worrallo in one of his sheds – a tea cup room at his home in Mosswood Street, Cannock

Retired Stephen's sheds heaven

A CANNOCK man has spent the last 12 years transforming sheds into pubs, tea cup rooms and more.

Stephen Worrallo, aged 67, began to transform his shed in Mosswood Street into a pub in 2006 and now has four different types of sheds. Only one stores tools.

He recently added to his collection by completing a tea cup room, with 150 mugs hanging from the walls, a World Cup room, with a television, trophy and chairs ahead of the tournament in June and a pagoda. He claims it has cost him £1,000 to build them all.

He said: "I worked through the winter to complete them. I retired and wanted something to do. It started because I thought I wanted to build a bar on the side of my shed and it has developed from then."

The full bar previously included eight pumps, optics, stools, records on the ceiling and a disco mirror ball.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Disruption fears over M6 closures

MORE overnight closures of the M6 will continue to cause a 'storm' in Stafford, say community leaders.

It comes as Highways England confirmed the motorway will be closed from 10pm until 6am between junction 13 and 14 later this year, for work to create an extra lane and install electronic boards, upgrading the route to a Smart Motorway.

The project, which saw overnight closures this month, has caused disturbance and damage to the town, it is claimed. However, project sponsor Peter Smith said: "We're in touch with residents in Stafford affected by traffic diverted from the M6."

Players wanted for six-a-side league

FOOTBALLERS are being invited to sign up to a six-a-side league this summer at 5's Pavilion & Sports Ground in Bradbury Lane, Hednesford.

"Although the domestic season is over, this is going to be a big summer for football, with everyone gripped by World Cup fever," Sam Jones, from organisers Leisure Leagues, said.

Anyone who wants to register a team can do so at www.leisureleagues.net/league/5s-pavilion-sports-ground/cannock-wednesday

For more information they can call 0333 123 2340.

Warning as bikes stolen from shed

THIEVES broke into a shed in Ebenezer Street, Hednesford, and took two high-value bikes and tools.

Police have asked residents to keep valuables securely locked away.

Anyone with information about the incident, which happened last Tuesday, can contact police on 101.

Meanwhile, a spate of car breakins hit three streets in Lichfield the following day. Three of the incidents happened in Mary Slater Road, another one in nearby Parnell Avenue and a further break-in in Birmingham Road. Various items were stolen.

Pedalling pupils take part in safety course

STUDENTS from a Hednesford school have taken part in a Level 3 Bikeability course.

Year 7 and 8 pupils from Staffordshire University Academy took part in a course around the town, successfully learning how to cycle safely on a variety of routes.

A spokeswoman for the school said: "A special thanks goes to Cyclist Training Ltd for organising the event."

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COUNTY NEWS

11pc of weapons crime ends in jail

CRIMINALS in the West Midlands convicted for weapons possession were more likely to be given a community order than a prison sentence of more than a year, new figures show.

According to the Ministry of Justice, 91 out of the 799 of people convicted for possession of guns or knives across the region last year were handed jail time of 12 months or more.

While this represents only 11 per cent of those convicted, over the same period 235 offenders (30 per cent) were given community orders.

Just 35 criminals caught with weapons (four per cent) were jailed for four years or more.

Motorway bypass back on the table

PLANS have resurfaced for a controversial motorway that would skirt the Black Country and carve through sections of Staffordshire.

The Western Orbital scheme – also known as the Wolverhampton bypass – was twice rejected in the 1990s and 2000s due to concerns over its environmental impact.

But a new report to the West Midlands Combined Authority says transport body Midlands Connect is to use part of a £4 million funding pot to scope plans to revitalise the scheme. Now dubbed the Western Strategic Route, the motorway would cut a 40-mile swathe through countryside.

Contactless paying is proving popular

THE West Midlands has the joint highest level of banking customers with a contactless card. A study from UK Finance, the trade body representing the banking sector, put it at 81 per cent, level with the North East.

Almost two-thirds (64 per cent) of banking customers in the region regularly use their card to make contactless payments – the highest proportion in the country. UK Finance looked at how technology and innovation are transforming retail banking.

Knitted poppies plan down on the farm

A CASCADE of knitted poppies is planned at a country park to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

The aim at Northycote Farm in Wolverhampton, is to have the display of red woollen poppies on display in time for the summer solstice on June 21.

Poppies can be handed in to the Friends of Northycote base at Underhill Lane or to the farm manager.

Week of celebrations for volunteers

THOUSANDS of volunteers from Staffordshire will be joining the celebrations for National Volunteers' Week, starting tomorrow (Friday).

Celebration parties, award ceremonies and information events will all be recognising the huge contribution that thousands of volunteers make every day, helping make Staffordshire a great place to live. Events include:

Cannock – people are invited to the volunteer stall set up on the bandstand in the town centre on June 4 from 10am to 2pm where they can get information and advice on volunteering opportunities in the area.

Stafford – representatives from Support Staffordshire will also be on hand at the County Show today (Thursday) to talk to people about the thousands of volunteering opportunities available throughout the county.

Lichfield – people are invited to the Market Square on June 11 from 10am to 3pm where they can talk to volunteers from 16 local organisations and find out how to get involved in volunteering. Volunteers at Lichfield Library will also be holding their own special Volunteers Week celebrations on Thursday, June 7, from 2 to 4pm.

South Staffordshire – staff and volunteers from Support Staffordshire will be at the district council building in Codsall on June 6 from 10.30am to 2pm.

Staffordshire County Council works closely with SCVYS (Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services) and Support Staffordshire to increase volunteering and get local communities acting on the issues that are important to them. Call 0300 777 1207 or visit www.do-it.org for details.

Newlife role has given me a sense of purpose

By Charlotte Callear

A BEREAVED mother has opened up about how volunteering has given her a purpose since her teenage daughter's death.

Shelley Whale, from Pelsall, joined the Newlife volunteer team just over a year ago, four years after sustaining a brain injury in a car accident on the way to Walsall Academy that sadly also took the life of her 13-year-old daughter Natasha.

Joyce Moore — 'best thing'

After the crash in 2014, she was unable to walk at first and struggled with her memory, co-ordination, feeding and dressing herself.

Shelley has spoken out about how she has managed to cope through volunteering for the Cannock-based charity Newlife. She goes there once a week to de-label clothes donated from high-street shops which are then sold in one of the six Newlife stores to generate revenue, which helps fund equipment for disabled and terminally ill children across the UK.

Shelley said: "After the accident I needed a purpose. Volunteering for Newlife made me feel worthwhile, like I had something to give – that I mattered and I could contribute.

"Before the accident I worked in a school kitchen and stacked shelves, but as well as losing the sight in my left eye I also have a brain injury, so my memory is not what it used to be.

"The team at Newlife worked with me to see what I could do and give me harder things to do when I need them so I can progress. Volunteering has given me a brighter outlook for the future and improved my confidence. Working to identify labels and cut them out has also helped me physically and it is definitely the best thing I could have done for my mental health." According to research by the Office for National Statistics, 11.9 million people volunteer in the UK each month, but the number of hours actually being donated is declining.

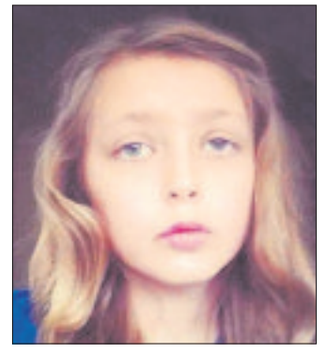
However, Newlife is bucking the trend with its volunteer hours increasing by 2,000 in the last 12 months and increasing from 10,000 to 26,000 over the past three years. Volunteering is thought to help battle depression, reduce blood pressure and get people more physically active.

Joyce Moore, aged 72, from Cannock, also volunteers for Newlife and said it has helped her since the death of her husband Michael. Mrs Moore said: "One of my friends spent months persuading me to volunteer for Newlife. Now I try to persuade all my friends to go. Volunteering was the best thing for me. I was feeling quite low and it got me out of myself. Volunteering means a lot to me now, it has given me a bigger life."

Newlife's national volunteer manager Kevin Lowe said: "Volunteering helps develop a social network, which in turn protects against depression.

"For example, one of our elderly volunteers, Fred, has additional needs and lives alone, but is often visited at home by his volunteer colleagues, reducing his isolation and improving his wellbeing."

Shelley Whale – 'volunteering for Newlife made me feel worthwhile'



Natasha Whale was killed in the smash

The scene of the fatal collision in February 2014

A Burntwood Phoenix FC football match tribute to Natasha

Plea on man who bought alcohol for girl aged 15

Police are appealing for help to find this man

POLICE are appealing for information on this unknown man who purchased alcohol for a schoolgirl.

On April 23, he approached a 15-year-old girl in Wissage Road, Lichfield and then drove to Rugeley with her where he bought her alcohol from the local Co-op before heading to the Cannock Chase area.

The girl was wearing green camouflage leggings and a black hoody with red Adidas trainers.

Police have asked anyone who saw the young girl in Lichfield or Rugeley on that day or if anyone can can help identify him to contact 101 quoting incident number 266 of April 23, 2018.

Future of retail centre 'at risk'

THE future of a shopping centre has been put in jeopardy by the imminent closure of its Marks & Spencer store, an MP has warned.

Eddie Hughes says he has 'grave concerns' over the the Saddlers Centre, after the chain announced it was pulling out of Walsall as part of a dramatic retreat from the high street.

The store opened in 1980 and was the centrepiece of the Saddlers Centre, which Walsall Council bought with a 'high-risk' loan of £13.8 million last year. Mr Hughes, Conservative MP for Walsall North, said he was 'deeply saddened' by the closure, which will see 94 staff lose their jobs.

He added: "These are worrying times for the future of the centre as a whole. When a major store goes from any shopping centre there is always the chance of a domino effect."

Care home is approved

PROPOSALS to transform a six-bedroom house into a care home have been given the green light. The home will be based in Pye Green Road, Cannock, and is expected to bring 15 jobs to the district.

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Weeks of delays as gas pipes replaced

DRIVERS are facing six weeks of delays while underground gas pipes are replaced in Cannock.

The work will see ageing metal gas mains in Mill Street replaced with tough new durable plastic pipes, the diameter of a car tyre.

Gas network Cadent is gearing up to replace underground gas pipes in Cannock to make sure local people can rely on 'safe and reliable gas supplies for cooking and heating until the end of the century'.

To keep staff and motorists safe while the work is under way, traffic management will be in place.

There will be two phases, which will each need traffic restrictions.

Access for residents and deliveries will still be possible.

Phase two includes the cycle lane and footpath that run from Mill Street to Lichfield Road.

Clearly signed diversion routes will be in place for pedestrians and vehicles.

Steve Murray, who heads up Cadent's gas mains replacement programme in the West Midlands, said: "This is essential work to ensure people can continue to enjoy safe and reliable gas supplies for at least another 80 years."

If anyone has any inquiries about this work they should contact Cadent's customer services team on the hotline 0161 703 1000.

Pub has a psychic night on the cards

A PSYCHIC night will take place at a Cannock pub on Wednesday, June 13.

The event is being held at The Mill Farm, in Lichfield Road, from 7pm until 10pm and will feature Tarot card, angle card and guidance card readings.

Psychic Heather Spedding, from Stafford, will perform one-to-one readings of a set of Inner Emotion Guidance Cards she has put together, which feature drawings depicting different emotional states to help people understand their inner feelings.

There will also be three other psychics performing readings at the event. There is a £2 admission fee for the evening, which includes entry into a raffle. For more details visit www.spiritualpathwayz.co.uk

Heading to Goyt

CHASE Ramblers' outing on Sunday is an eight-mile moderate walk from The Goyt Valley near Buxton, meeting at Hednesford railway station car park for a 9am prompt departure. Call 01543 686429. New walkers welcome.

Chris to road-test Fringe show material

Chris Stokes – 'I had a blast, basically'

STAFFORDSHIRE comedian Chris Stokes is on the road with a new solo stand-up routine ahead of his appearance at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer.

Stokes, who went to Great Wyrley High School, is playing 10 shows over the coming weeks including Birmingham's Midland Arts Centre (MAC) on Thursday, June 14.

Tickets are already on sale for the Fringe event but for those who can't make it to Edinburgh he will be testing out the show titled We Don't Need Roads on audiences for the next few weeks. He said: "So far, the seal has been broken with a couple of work-in-progress shows having occurred round and about and – he says cautiously – the show is slowly taking shape.

Friendly

"I've had a lot of fun previewing the show and there are still more to come."

Chris has been on the road for several months supporting comic Milton Jones including dates in Wolverhampton and Dudley but the tour came to an end last month. He added: "Audiences up and down the country were warm, welcoming and friendly. I had a blast, basically.

"I am looking at doing a small tour of my own at the beginning of 2019 with the express intention of heading back to many of the towns I visited with Mr Jones.

"So keep your eyes peeled for that," Chris added.

Tickets for his MAC appearance under the banner Edinbrum and also starring Lloyd Langford, are £10 and available at macbirmingham.co.uk

Guinness record dream for the floating catwalk

By Pippa Armstrong

FAMOUS faces joined 30 professional models and some 120 guests to witness a Guinness world record attempt for the longest floating catwalk.

A Wolverhampton-based model agency is behind the bid, now waiting to hear if it has a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Dream Street Models, which was based in Walsall but is now at Hilton Hall in Essington, had waited 28 weeks to get approval from Guinness for the attempt.

The journey began in Stourport and saw the catwalk on a boat floating down the River Severn – considered to be the UK's longest river at 220 miles.

A two-hour fashion show attracted such faces as X Factor stars Stevi Ritchie and Chloe Jasmine as well as a performance from 90s Icelandic pop singer Alda Bjork Olafsdóttir who has sold five million records worldwide.

Platform

The event showcased designs from all over the UK – high street to couture fashion. The backstage team included the Bryanna Angel make-up artist as seen in Vogue and Julian Fiddimore's Revail who manage the elite beauty queens in the UK, along with top hairstylist Hair by Harps.

Dream Street Models founder Chloe Avon said: "I am happy to be able to provide a platform for designers to be seen whilst giving models the opportunity to walk in a large production."

She expects to find out within the next fortnight whether they achieved a world record. Dream Street is getting a reputation for unusual fashion venues. Last September it held a fashion show at Blithbury Reindeer Lodge, Rugeley. The next show will take place on a moving train at Chasewater Railway on July 1.

Hold tight – Icelandic singer Alda entertains
Picture by Cloud11 Photography

X Factor star Chloe Jasmine.
Picture David Sutton Photography

Evening look – crowds look on as another model takes to the floating catwalk

All aboard – the catwalk record attempt attracted hundreds of people

NEWS IN BRIEF

Burglaries spark security warning

HOMEOWNERS are being urged to check their home security after a spate of burglaries.

Staffordshire Police say there has been an increase in residential burglaries in the Lichfield area. Officers are reminding residents to check that all doors and windows are locked and that no valuables are on show.

PCSO Deryn Small said: "We would like to take the time to remind residents to double check their security at home to prevent any breaches.

"Whilst you are out of your home please make sure all of your doors and windows are locked and secure and there are no valuables on show."

Police put a focus on modern slavery

EDUCATING businesses and private landlords about modern slavery and human trafficking was the focus of a week of activity organised by Staffordshire Police.

The week of co-ordinated action, led by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), focused on labour exploitation.

To report any concerns call police on 101. Incidents can also be reported, anonymously, via the national Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121700 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Shakespeare goes sci-fi at Garrick

THE Tempest, Shakespeare's tale of illusion and revenge, is brought vividly to life in Oddsocks Production's musical sci-fi adaptation at the Lichfield Garrick tomorrow (Friday).

Space explorer Prospero is marooned in a galaxy far, far away with his fearless daughter Miranda and a host of madcap aliens.

Years later when his enemies' ship is passing nearby the chance for revenge is hard to resist and he conjures up the force to bring them to him.

Tickets start from £18 and can be booked on 01543 412121.

Open mic sessions to showcase talents

BURNTWOOD Folk Club and The Nelson Open Mic will be staging open mic events over the summer for local players to showcase their talents.

The Nelson will host regular Sunday sessions starting on June 10, and Burntwood Folk Club's monthly events will continue on June 6, July 4 and August 1.

"The Burntwood live music scene has gone from strength to strength," spokesman Richard Hill said.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Storing up trouble as millions shop online

IT'S always a bit of a downer when you return from your holiday. And even more so when you switch on the television hoping to relax with a pint of mild and a bit of Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away, only to be greeted instead by Fiona Phillips wittering on about the 'fall of a national institution'.

Asking the so-so former breakfast TV presenter to analyse the decline of Marks & Spencer is like getting Gazza to front a documentary on Greek literature. Strange choice.

But while it was not the viewing I had planned, there is also no denying Channel 5 had its timing spot-on with this one, coinciding perfectly with the news that M&S would be closing 100 stores, with the one in Walsall among the first.

Now, unlike Fiona, I don't hold any great place in my heart for M&S. Maybe it's the memories of never-ending boredom in childhood, when this seemed by far the dullest place in the world. Or maybe it was the way it so quickly turned its back on the high streets of Dudley and West Bromwich when it calculated there was more profit in having a single branch at Merry Hill.

This is not a national institution, it's just another store chain. And one which showed so little loyalty to its Black Country customers in the 1980s can hardly demand an outpouring of goodwill now it is facing hard times.

But while I won't mourn the brand, I do feel huge sadness for the people losing their jobs through no fault of their own, and also the huge hole this is going to leave in our already-struggling town centres. Already there is speculation about the future viability of the Saddlers Centre, where the Walsall branch is based, and I fear we will see more of the same when the full extent of the closure programme becomes clear.

It seems the one thing everyone agrees on is that it is growth of online shopping which is killing our towns. So why do we do it? Well frankly, I don't. I've never seen the appeal in paying up-front for items I haven't seen, and then being told they can't be delivered because I am at work. Yet strangely, millions of people can't get enough of it, probably the same people who will take to their keyboards bemoaning the decline of their town.

It's time to wake up. If you care about where you live, support your town centre, even if it means paying a few pounds more. Otherwise, a few years from now, all we will be left with is a few global technology giants. And nobody will make documentaries mourning their passing.

No life, or style for retirement, it seems, with magazine

Blair's latest Brexit re-referendum ramblings brought forth an interesting response

Gordon Brown in his days as PM – as chancellor, he is accused of targeting Mr Rhodes

TV fly-on-the-wall show 24 Hours In Police Custody – making no assumptions

Feeling ruff after taking supplement

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

I MENTIONED Virol a few days ago. It was a food supplement which vanished from the market some years back. A reader, after some research, points out that the ingredients of Virol sound remarkably like dog food. Well, it never did me any harm. Woof.

INTRIGUINGLY, a Google search for Virol will take you to an Amazon web page offering three varieties of malt extract and a weatherproof masonry sealer. Versatile, or what?

AH, the eternal steely pragmatism of the British. An online debate about Tony Blair's suggestion for a second Brexit referendum brought forth this gem: "While the message was okay, nonetheless after reading it, could someone please shoot the ****ing messenger."

ANOTHER flurry of messages follows up the issue of litter around Loch Lomond which I touched on recently. "The answer is education," declares one contributor. Really? And how many hours in the classroom does it take to convey the message: "Don't drop that."?

THERE were times during the Chancellorship of Gordon Brown when I thought he had it in for me personally. His budgets seemed surgically targeted at me for earning a little more than the minimum wage, using a company car and having a fuel card, while he was bunging more money to the old and frail. Year after year, Brown took money out of my wage packet and gave it to my mother-in-law. Was this his revenge for one or two (okay, maybe more) difficult interviews? Anyway, the Tory government has now taken up the hounding of me. In the crusade against pollution, I am targeted for driving a diesel car, for having solid-fuel central heating and for keeping the baronial hall tepid with a couple of log-burning stoves. All may be banned in the name of cleaner air. Dare no-one suggest the problem could be solved if selfish people learned to breathe a little less?

WHEN a man in Ohio phoned police to report that a pig was following him home, the cops assumed the caller was drunk. Not so. He was sober and the animal was a domestic pig in need of company. I bet we were all reminded of the poem about the drunk who falls asleep in the gutter next to a pig. There are several versions but they all end with a lady, disgusted at the sight exclaiming: "You can tell a man who boozes by the company he chooses." / And the pig got up and slowly walked away.

SOMETHING called a "Lifestyle Retirement Magazine" has just arrived from Legal & General. Dear God above – is this the future? The front cover shows an old bloke with a grey Corbyn-like beard riding a bike while wearing a plastic helmet. On his feet are trainers, worn over black socks, presumably to indicate he is English. They call it "lifestyle" but what sort of life is this and where, oh where, is the style? Turn to page 5 of the L&G leaflet and there's a graphic of a toilet roll. Why? Because according to a survey, one of the things that surprises people when they retire is "How many toilet rolls we use." For the record, I know several retired folk who don't own a bike or a beard, and who never, ever fret about bog-paper. And if they found themselves morphing into Jeremy Corbyn I'm sure they'd do something about it. If this is the image most people have about retirement it may explain why so many are happy to keep on working.

EVERY journalist knows that sinking feeling experienced by the detective in 24 Hours in Police Custody (C4) when the threads fall apart and you realise the great story you're working on isn't a story at all. In this case it came when an officer uncovered medical records showing that a woman found with her throat slashed – and assumed to be a murder victim – had a long history of self-harming, including trying to cut her throat. But then the only eye-witness had already told cops she had seen the "victim" alone at the death scene. I found it surprising that anybody, in this case the woman's oddball partner, could be arrested and held in custody on little more than an assumption. They tell us we're innocent until proved guilty!

BUT then police and hacks work differently. For example, "never assume anything" is one of the golden rules of journalism. At least I assume it is.

TALKING POINT

Music to my ears to say I'm a rock chick

LIKE Cher without the surgery, Debbie Harry on a quiet day and Madonna if she ate cake – I too am an ageing rock chick.

As a sassy teen rocker I can remember looking at 'old' people at gigs – probably aged about 35 to my young eyes – and wondering why would they still be turning out for concerts at their age?

Today I am more than a little over the age of 35 and still go to as many gigs as ever. Admittedly my back and calf muscles ache the following day. And though my jeans are still too tight it is in very different places and more to do with a hearty supper rather than some DIY tapering on my mum's sewing machine. I tend to take a coat these days too.

The standing/dancing area remains my ticket of choice and, being vertically challenged, I need to get close enough to see. Though when going to watch the 'classic' bands still going from my youth I find they are often all-seaters now. Even the singers tend to need a sit down.

I can still be found at the odd music festival – but NEVER in the camping area. Camping at music festivals is something that can only be enjoyed by the young or insomniacs. Give me a nice warm hotel bed and an en suite bathroom every time. My back isn't up to a camp bed or deflating airbed anymore.

Sadly, there seems something a little undignified to see women of a certain age still staking a claim to their place in the music scene. Isn't it time Madonna covered up a little and stopped subjecting us to images of her muscles and veiny arms? And I don't doubt that the excitable young things bounding around at Kasabian view my bestie and I as a pair of Edina and Patsy clones.

In truth I always thought I would 'grow out of' loud and live music at some point and develop a love of easy listening and maybe even classical. Thankfully it never happened.

I dislike the rapid-chat-to-music that my daughter listens to and can regularly be heard shouting mumfully 'turn that row down'. Would it kill her to listen to a guitar band every now and again?

But music still lifts my mood, evokes uncharacteristic energy and movement from me and brings a smile to my face. So I have no intention of giving up going to concerts – I am an ageing rocker and proud of it.

I once saw a 'motivational' plaque with the message 'Life is a piece of music, and you are supposed to be dancing." Well I am still dancing – just not in the the mosh pit anymore.

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Mortars destroyed as bomb site made safe

The bomb squad at the scene off Milestone Way, Chasetown *Picture: @snappersk*

BOMB disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion after hundreds of mortar shells were found.

A 200-metre (656ft) cordon was put in place after the shells, which were unexploded, were found on a building site near Milestone Way, Chasetown, on Thursday. The A5190 was closed while any live shells were detonated under controlled conditions.

Staffordshire Police confirmed by 3.50pm on Friday that all the munitions had either been removed or detonated safely on site. The cordon was lifted a short time later and the site handed back to developers.

Burntwood town councillor Darren Ennis said:. "It is better safe than sorry." Taylor Wimpey and Barratt Homes are building 150 more homes at Milestone Way.

The land was once occupied by ES Smith, a company which stored war debris in the 1940s and 1950s.

Bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion on a suspected mortar found on the site last September, which also halted building work.

The mortars discove red at the site *Picture: @staffspolice*

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Spare us the use of F-word

ON public transport, on the street, in the park or around the towns, the level of foul mouthed exchanges people share is everywhere.

Using the F-word singly or in a string of potty mouthed utterances to add exaggeration, exasperation, emphasis or plain sounding off.

We all have times when the odd swear word can be a relief. We now live in a time where swearing is a language in itself which we all have inflicted on us.

Let's realise that there are thousands of expressive words in the English language, not all of them four-letter words that start with F.

Make days out friendlier, stop the potty mouths!

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

The days when beds were never abandoned

WE were visiting the tip. It pains me to see good stuff dumped.

I'm a hoarder and botcher; without the wife I'd fill the house with junk and throw nothing away.

She pointed to mattresses piled sky high: "We need a new bed."

When I was born, we lodged with grandparents in one of the old three-storey 'London' houses in Elmore Lane. It was creepy with one gas mantle downstairs and a candle for bed. The bedsteads were handed down through generations. A bed was never abandoned.

The mattresses were loose-filled, feathers or flock. They rucked up into humps. When the candle went out your fears surfaced.You could disappear in the mattress. Get skewered by a spring.

If you fell out of bed and avoided the chamber pot you might choke in the fluff underneath. Luckily I was too young to worry about the births and deaths it had witnessed.

My uncle was also born there and still has nightmares in his 80s!

I reckon our bed's got years left in it. A good thrashing with the carpet beater and it'll see us out.

The wife seems reluctant.

K GEE
Rugeley

British servicemen to have a lasting tribute

I AM acting on behalf of the authorities at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery Busan South Korea, where over 800 British Servicemen are buried.

The authorities there wish to obtain photographs of those servicemen interred there, and, also of those who died but have no known grave (over 200).

Copies of the photograph will be placed in the man's records, and will also be displayed on the walls of the Cemetery Hall of Remembrance, for all time.

Any family, or friend, who lost a loved one in the Korean War 1950-53 and wish to take part can send the photograph to me, at 116 Fields Farm Road, Hyde SK14 3NP.

BRIAN HOUGH
Cheshire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

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Thank you for all the expertise

IN the run-up to National Volunteering Week (June 1-7), Cats Protection would like to extend our thanks to the many thousands of volunteers throughout the country who offer their time and expertise to help cats and kittens across the UK.

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Anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer can go to www.cats.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering to find out more.

JULIE MEREDITH
Cats Protection

Do not be fooled . . . we're still fighting

PHIL , you have not had a hard Brexit, sir ("Winners have bullied rest of us", Letters, May 17).

The information about Brexit is being twisted by a self-serving portion of politicians. What you are seeing is an attempt to exercise a death by a thousand cuts.

No one politician or cause can silence Brexit so we have a choreographed series of happenings. Mr Blair weighs in, Mr Milliband, fresh from the Americas, comes to save us. Mr Barnier pronounces that we are being childish to want another life. The Irish prime minister gives us instruction on what is best for him, not for us.

The Lords go against the Government at every opportunity – an unelected body going against an elected body who have been charged with achieving Brexit.

Brexiters do not be fooled into thinking that your fellow Brexiters have given up the fight by the Phils of this world. We have not.

R HICKENBOTTOM
Burntwood

Free display in the skies

THE Royal Wedding/FA Cup Final was supposed to be a magnificent occasion? I witnessed a far better sight of a red kite over Belvide Reservoir on the A5. This was a wonderful natural event – and for free, as well.

PHILIP EVANS
Great Wyrley

Plants bring summer to meeting

Burntwood WI

BURNTWOOD WI

THE meeting hall was an array of beautiful spring and summer plants, thanks to the speaker for the evening Byron Lewis.

After the business for the evening – this included wishing Jean Winfield a very happy 80th birthday, and Jean provided the cakes to celebrate – Gwyneth presented Veronica Stephenson with her 50 Years WI membership certificate, and welcomed two new members.

Byron took members on a horticultural journey into spring and summer with expert advice, hints and tips on achieving great results from their gardens.

Members were able to purchase all of the plants he brought along to the meeting, and many went home with work to do the next day, planting out.

He also entertained everyone with anecdotes of his training at Pershore College, which included winning a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show.

After a cup of tea and a slice of cake the competition winner was announced and the raffle was held. Ron gave the thought for the month which concluded the meeting.

The club welcomes new members and anyone interested can go along to get an idea of what goes on.

Meetings are held at the Memorial Hall in Burntwood on the first Thursday of the month from 7pm till 9.30pm.

Clog dancer steps up for birthday bash

Cutting the cake are president Ann Ingleby and youngest member Emma Whiston

Etching Hill WI

THE 72nd birthday party celebrations of Etching Hill WI commenced with clog dancer Audrey Wareing and violinist Lynn Evans explaining and demonstrating the history of clog dancing, particularly around the Lancashire mills.

Many famous music hall stars began their careers as cloggers including Dan Leno who won the first World Champion Clog Dancer competition in 1880.

The party celebrations continued with a buffet, all supplied by the members.

The birthday cake, made by Mrs Betty Watkin, was decorated in the colours of the suffrage movement – green, white and violet – to support the centenary of the first British woman being able to vote. The cake was cut by president Ann Ingleby and Emma Whiston, as the youngest member of this WI.

Speaker at the meeting on June 13 is Janice Burton, from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month at Etching Hill Village Hall from 7.45pm. New members are always made most welcome.

For more information about the club visit www.wi-etching-hill.org.uk

Talk about four-legged friends

Hayes Green WI

IN the last three months the club had a varied programme of events which had a wide appeal.

The March meeting was a talk about the work of Canine Partners, in which members found out about how their dogs are helping disabled people to live independently.

There was an opportunity to meet one of their dogs and see them in action.

The April meeting was a social one where a variety of games were played which meant members had a lively fun evening.

The May meeting was the AGM where the national resolution on mental health was discussed and elections for the president were held.

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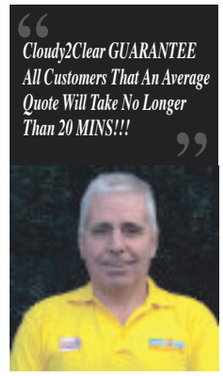

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Restaurant a hit with Cup judges

THE Dilshad restaurant in Cannock has been highly commended in a competition which searches for the very best in South Asian dishes across the UK.

Tony Uddin, owner of the Dilshad, was presented with a special embroidered apron and certificate by Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling following his success in the annual Tiffin Cup. The competition is run by the Tiffin Club to find the best South Asian restaurant in the UK.

Nominees are selected by their constituency and put forward by their local MPs.

The regional winners are then invited to cook at the Houses of Parliamant in a grand final. Ms Milling nominated Mr Uddin for the award following a visit to the restaurant.

Tony said: "It is a fantastic achievement and I am very proud and honoured."

Tony Uddin with Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling

Police officer is sacked for computer snooping

A POLICE officer who used force computer systems to look up her neighbours, ex-husband and partner's family has been sacked.

Michelle Denne has also been barred from working in the law enforcement sector again. The ex-Staffordshire Police officer checked the force database on six occasions over five years for personal reasons.

Checks were done on her neighbours, an ex-husband in connection with alleged disputes in his background and on the family of a partner she was living with. She did so, she claimed, to protect her children.

Denne was dismissed with immediate effect by Chief Constable Gareth Morgan at a special case misconduct hearing. It came after the 44-year-old, of Tarragona Drive, Stafford, was sentenced at Birmingham Magistrates Court last month to a six-month community order, which included a 10-day rehabilitation. She had pleaded guilty to six offences under the Computer Misuse Act.

Michelle Denne – now on 'barred list'

Denne served in the Cannock policing team and had been a police officer for 20 years. She handed in her resignation after being sentenced.

Having not reached 30 years' service, Denne will lose a chunk of her pension. Her details will now be sent to the College of Policing for inclusion on the 'barred list' which will prevent her being re-employed in the law enforcement sector.

Mr Morgan said: "The public trust us to secure the information we hold about them and this was a clear breach of that trust and privilege."

Free wi-fi at 190 GP practices

PATIENTS and staff at more than 190 GP practices in Staffordshire can now access free wi-fi.

The roll-out is part of NHS England's ambitions to improve the use of technology to help people take more control of their own health.

It means that people will have the opportunity to download health apps, browse the internet and access health and care information online.

NHS England Midlands and East is working with NHS Digital, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and health trusts on a programme to ensure everyone can access free wi-fi at NHS sites.

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Saturday 7th	Southport	£22.00
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Councillors give support to Alzheimer's group

TWO Staffordshire county councillors dropped in on a monthly Alzheimer's support evening having each donated £500 to the group.

Councillors Bryan Jones and Phil Hewitt, who donated the cash out of their Community Fund allocation, went along to the Monthly Alzheimer's Support Evening (MASE) group which meets at the Aquarius Ballroom in Hednesford.

Daphne Sharp, one of the founder members and trustee of the charity, said: "The monthly Alzheimer's support evenings are run completely by volunteers, the groups offer the hand of friendship and support to carers and the cared for.

"The money received from our councillors has secured our venue for Hednesford group for a year.

Time

"There are five groups at Cannock, Rugeley, Haughton, Hednesford and Stafford; we get around 300 carers and cared for attending."

"We have a team of 40 volunteers who give their time so generously to ensure the groups run smoothly and efficiently," Daphne said.

"New volunteers bring new ideas to the groups and are always welcome," she added.

Councillor Hewitt said: "What could be more worthwhile than providing such a valuable service within local communities?"

Councillor Jones said "We have had a wonderful evening mixing with everyone and hearing of their touching stories and individual journeys.

"People attending clearly enjoyed the activities, particularly the singing and dancing, or simply just sharing their experience."

With family and friends who regularly attend MASE events are, back row from left, County Councillor Phil Hewitt, his partner Adie Fitzgerald, trustees Elaine Dunlop, Jim Dunlop, and Daphne Sharp, county councillor Bryan Jones and trustee Richard Sharp

Visitor volunteers honoured

EIGHT independent custody visitor volunteers have been honoured for their long service to the scheme.

The scheme has been active in Staffordshire for more than 20 years, and currently there are around 44 volunteers who carry out regular visits to the units within the police force area.

The people who received the certificate for five years' service are Anita Griffiths, Carol Pearson, Ian Scott and Lisa Tunney from the Southern panel, which covers the Watling Street custody facility at Gailey, and Judith Adams, Sandra Beard, Andrew Carter and Catherine Whitehouse from the Northern panel covering the custody facility at Etruria.

There is also a Trent Valley area panel for the Burton custody facility.

They received a special certificate to mark their achievement from Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Ellis, and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Arnold.

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Kick-start for safety of young motorbikers

YOUNG motorcyclists are being prepared for life on the roads in a series of safety workshops being held in Staffordshire.

The sessions are part of a pilot scheme that is on offer to 16 to 21-year-olds as they are more likely to be involved in a crash.

They will have the chance to cut £50 off their Compulsory Basic Training course by attending a two-hour workshop which offers advice on safer riding, rules of the road and an overview of the Highway Code.

If the £1,500 scheme, co-ordinated by Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership, is successful, it will be rolled out across the county.

The first two workshops will be held at Cannock fire station tomorrow (Friday) from 6.30pm to 9pm and Burton fire station on Friday, June 8, from 6.30pm to 9pm.

Places are limited and places can be booked by emailing bikers@staffordshire.gov.uk or by contacting Kevin Wilcox on 07855 336922.

The Young Biker BBQs, which will run over the summer, will also give riders a further opportunity to get advice from the road safety team and meet other partners and fellow bikers.

Other initiatives to improve the safety of young bikers include the The Adventures of Biker Jack mobile app, with more advice, videos and a competition run through the StaffsBikerJack Facebook page.

Further details on the campaigns are available on staffsyoungriders.co.uk

City gin festival

A GIN, ale and cheese festival is being held in Lichfield city centre. The free event on Saturday and Sunday will see more than 100 traders taking part. It runs from 9am to 5pm on both days.

Rotary takes on running of library

From left, the Rotary Club's Ron Ashley, Councillor Gill Heath, and Rotary Club member John Wilson

THE Rotary Club of Rugeley is now running Staffordshire County Council's library in Brereton.

Ron Ashley, president of the Rotary Club of Rugeley, said: "This is the first time one of Rotary's 1,800 UK clubs has done this, and there is a great deal of interest within the organisation nationally in what we're doing.

"Rotary's ethos is about public service and one of our cornerstones is promoting literacy, so this seemed an ideal opportunity to combine those ideas." Brereton Library is one of 23 in Staffordshire which has transferred, or is in the process of transferring, to community management. A further 20 are under the direct control of the county council.

Councillor Gill Heath, the county council's cabinet member for communities, said: "The common themes among the groups selected to take on the management are enthusiasm, experience, skills and, above all, a passion to make each library responsive to local people."

Finally! Health centre looks to be on the way

A HEALTH centre could soon be built in place of a care home – more than eight years after the multi-million pound project was first mooted.

Staffordshire County Council is working with NHS England and the Clinical Commissioning Group to create the new centre at Greenwood House in Burntwood.

Local councillors claimed promises had been broken two years ago over vows to deliver the centre.

But now, a decision on the final proposals will be made by council chiefs in June. If given the go-ahead, a consultation will be carried out before a planning application is submitted.

Councillor Alan White, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for health, care and well-being, said: "Helping people lead healthy and independent lives for as long as possible by supporting them more in their local communities is a key priority for both ourselves and our NHS partners.

"We are working with NHS England and the Clinical Commissioning Group on the potential to create a new health centre for Burntwood, which will bring major benefits to the local community and bring back into use a plot of land."

Proposals for a new health centre at Greenwood House were first spoken of back in 2009. Staffordshire County Council's cabinet was set to discuss plans for the Greenwood House development in 2015 but talks were abandoned. County councillor Sue Woodward, who represents Burntwood North, said the proposals were 'moving forward'.

She added: "It was promised Greenwood House would become a health centre in 2009 – it's certainly been going on for about 10 years. Burntwood has a long history of inadequate healthcare across the town."

More than 800 people signed a petition calling for a multi-million pound health centre in Burntwood.

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Charms to foil thieves have a ring to them

A PURSE CHARM initiative is being launched in the Cannock Chase district to deter thieves

Organised by the Cannock Chase Community Safety Partnership, the scheme aims to tackle the problem of 'purse dipping'.

The crime, which involves the theft of a purse or wallet, is most common in busy town centres, shops or public spaces.

Purse charms can alert the owner if someone is trying to steal from them and are suitable for people of all ages.

They have previously helped to cut crime in other parts of the country including Leicester, Sheffield and Manchester.

The charms are clipped to the zip on purses and wallets, and the twin bells will jingle to warn of a potential theft.

Safety

They are available to residents for free at council receptions in Cannock and Rugeley, and they can also be found in selected charity shops in Hednesford, Cannock and Rugeley.

Councillor Carl Bennett, crime and partnerships portfolio leader for Cannock Chase Council, said: "One of the council's corporate priorities for 2018-2023 is the improvement of community wellbeing.

"When related to community safety, this can be achieved through sustaining safe and secure communities.

"These simple but effective charms will help to deter crime and anti-social behavior in our town centres."

Duncan Rollo, partnerships manager for the Cannock district policing team, said: "Staffordshire Police have long been advocates of the use of purse bells. They are proven to be effective as a deterrent."

Duncan Rollo, left, Councillor Carl Bennett, and Oliver Greatbatch, community safety officer at Cannock Chase Council, at the launch

Station to get armed police

ARMED police will be based at Birmingham New Street railway station as part of a move to beef up security following last year's terror attacks.

A new unit featuring specialist firearms officers and a police dog and handler will be at the station so they can respond more quickly to terrorist attacks or major emergencies.

British Transport Police said its Midlands hub was part of an effort to ramp up counter-terror policing. Its team will work alongside regular officers and be able to 'respond more quickly to incidents and provide additional reassurance to passengers and rail staff'.

Britain was rocked by a series of attacks in 2017 including the Manchester Arena explosion and Westminster Bridge car and knife attack in London.

Police chiefs said the move was not being made in relation to any specific threat to the West Midlands.

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The events commence at Lichfield Campus on Thursday, June 7, from 6pm to 8pm, with Tamworth, Torc and Rodbaston Campuses opening their doors on Saturday, June 9, from 10am to 1pm.

The college has a wide range of courses and apprenticeships to choose from at all campuses

The open events are the perfect chance to find inspiration

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Available to people of all ages and at various levels, apprenticeships are a fantastic way to gain recognised qualifications and practical training while also earning a wage.

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There are also a wide range of other distance learning and part-time courses available, so whether you've got your eye on that next big promotion or would like to find a new hobby, visit our open events to explore the opportunities available to you.

Lichfield Campus: June 7, 6pm-8pm.

Rodbaston Campus, Tamworth Campus and Torc: June 9, 10am-1pm.

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'Think' call on supply efficiency

SEVERN Trent is asking customers to think a little bit more about how they use water.

Everyone has a part to play when it comes to saving water and it can be the smallest changes right now that can make the biggest difference in the future, the company says.

Doug Clarke, Severn Trent's water efficiency manager, says: "There are so many things that our customers can do. Some of our simplest tips relate to your morning routine – always turn off the tap while you're brushing your teeth and keep an eye on how long you're in the shower.

"Our water resources are in a healthy position and looking good for the summer ahead so we're just asking our customers not to be complacent."

Severn Trent to invest £100m in water network

SEVERN Trent, which serves millions of customers in the Midlands, has unveiled a £100 million investment drive.

It comes as the water company confirmed a surge in its turnover and profits for its latest financial year.

The business's turnover for the year to March 31 increased to £1.69 billion, up from £1.63bn in 2017, while pre-tax profits also rose from £520.1m to £541m.

The firm said the £100m investment, which has been generated from savings, would go towards a number of initiatives.

This includes 20,000 extra pressure monitors in its network of pipes, which means that leaks and bursts can be spotted more quickly.

Severn Trent added that sewer flooding was down 34 per cent, water quality complaints decreased 12 per cent and serious pollution incidents plummeted 71 per cent.

Water quality complaints decreased

However, the company added that there was a 'disappointing' performance on supply interruptions.

Sarah Bentley, Severn Trent chief customer officer, said: "We are always very sorry for the problems faced by our customers.

"We know how difficult it can be without water. All our customers were compensated fairly and these penalties result in lower bills in the longer term."

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Pals in Chase walk challenge

Schoolfriends Katie and Callum during their fundraising walk

TWO friends walked five kilometres across Cannock Chase in scorching weather to raise money for the children's charity NSPCC.

Callum Henry and Katie Carr, 11-year-olds from Hednesford, raised £350 thanks to their efforts. They took up the challenge after Callum saw an advert made by the charity on television, which his father John said he found 'upsetting'.

John, aged 53, said: "I said 'Why don't you do a walk on the Chase?'. We bought them their green T-shirts and Callum carried around a collection tin too.

"One cyclist stopped and asked what they were doing, and then gave them a few pounds, which Callum loved." The young pair, who attend Pye Green Academy, completed it in just less than 90 minutes.

John, who works for West Midlands Railway, asked his colleagues for help and collected some donations, taking the total to £350.

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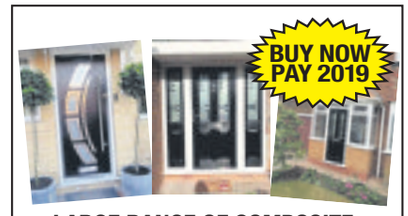

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Surge in US is helping HomeServe to profit

HOMESERVE, the West Midlands-based household repairs group, has revealed record profits growth boosted by a strong performance in North America.

While customer numbers have remained stable in the UK, at around 2.2 million, in the United States they soared by 20 per cent to 3.6 million.

It helped push group revenue up 15 per cent to almost £900 million for the financial year to the end of March, while pre-tax profits jumped 25 per cent to £123.3m.

Chief executive Richard Harpin said: "This has been another great year for HomeServe, with record profit growth and another step change in our growth in North America."

The company, which employs around 1,100 people at its Green Lane headquarters in Walsall, also completed its takeover of Checkatrade during the year in a £54m deal.

HomeServe offers insurance repairs for everything from burst pipes and broken boilers to dodgy wiring and faulty fridges and jammed locks. In North America, adjusted operated profit more than doubled, up 146 per cent to $64.4m. In the UK, however, adjusted operating profit slipped back by £2.1m to £61.1m as the business invested to increase efficiency and expand its operations in heating and its LeakBot digital leak detector.

Meanwhile, it saw double-digit growth in its French and Spanish operations.

● HomeServe picked up the Business Transformation and Managing Change award at the 2018 UK Employee Experience Awards, which is handed out to the company demonstrating the most 'significant change to business practice'.

By Simon Penfold

Pair put their best feet forward for £1k

Before the walk – Patric Lester, left, and Harry Wilkes

A PAIR of leading lights in a charity group took on a seven-mile walk around Stafford to raise more than £1,000.

Harry Wilkes and Patric Lester, who are from the Chase Parkinson's Group, carried out their fundraising effort on May 13. The walk started at Stafford Rugby Club and took in Stafford Castle, Dudda's Wood, and Millennium Green near Derrington before returning to the rugby club.

Harry and Patric said the walk took one hour and 55 minutes and the weather was certainly with them. They thanked family, friends, dance groups, workmates and colleges, along with St Hubbert's RC Primary School in Sandwell, for donating money.

The intrepid pair have raised £1,063 but this may increase as donations are still coming in.

Chase Parkinson's Group meet on the last Monday of the month at the Aquarius in Hednesford. Its aim is to develop mutual support and provide activities. For further information contact Tom Pagowski on 01543 466684.

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Tributes paid to fireworks blaze victims

By David Cosgrove

'IT breaks our hearts that we will never see him again.'

The families of two Hednesford men killed in a massive blaze at a fireworks factory have spoken of their heartbreak, as the company owner was found guilty of manslaughter by gross negligence.

Richard Pearson, aged 44, was found guilty in less than four hours by a jury at Stafford Crown Court.

Affected

Laboratory manager Stewart Staples, 57, who was looking to buy some fireworks at SP Plastics in Baswich for a party that night, died after becoming trapped in the blazing furnace along with employee Simon Hillier, 41, who had been preparing mortars for a display.

A Hillier family statement said: "It is hard to put into words how Simon's death has affected us.

"As a small close knit family it has left a massive hole in our lives and our lives will never be the same again.

"Thomas misses his dad dearly and the memories that they shared were so short lived.

"We all miss Simon and he is in our thoughts every day.

"It breaks our hearts that we will never see him again," the statement added.

Richard Pearson was found guilty of manslaughter

Simon Hillier – employee

Stewart Staples – party

The Staples family said: "Stewart was a devout family man and a real gentleman respected by everyone he met. He was suddenly taken from his loving family on the October 30, 2014.

"It has been a long and difficult three-and-a-half years since his death and the case being brought to trial. These years have seen our family struggle with pain, anger and grief over the loss of Stewart. We have got the right verdict."

Pearson, of Holyrood Close, Stafford, had denied manslaughter throughout the five-week trial at Stafford Crown Court.

He was refused bail and will be sentenced on June 13.

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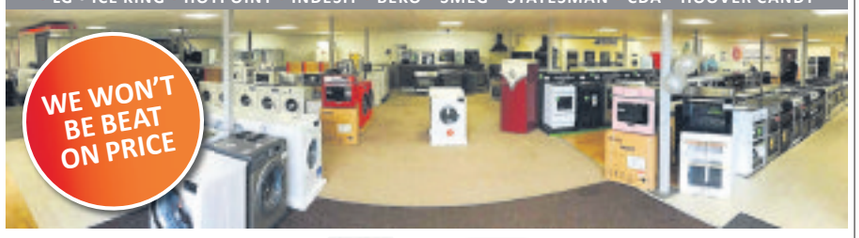

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FOCUS ON BURNTWOOD

Carillion graduate finds new home with Cameron

Sam Goakes

A GRADUATE made redundant by the collapse of Carillion has been taken on by an expanding building company.

Sam Goakes, aged 24, has joined Chasetown-based Cameron Homes, which is building housing developments throughout central England.

"I am very pleased to have been given the opportunity to join an expanding company such as Cameron as a graduate trainee," said Mr Goakes, of Burton upon Trent.

"I will spend the next two years here completing rotations in different departments and am currently supporting the technical team.

"Although based at the Cameron head office in Chasetown, I am a member of the newly formed East Midlands team and will eventually be based out of the firm's new office when it is launched later this year."

How to be a songwriter

A COURSE for young beginner-songwriters is being held in Burntwood. The course at Neon Studios is expected to attract teenagers and young musicians who would like to have a go at songwriting.

It will be led by Burntwood musician and composer Rosie Tee and musical virtuoso Dan Cippico, lead performer and composer in the band Gathering Tides. It is expected to attract teenagers and young musicians who would like to have a go at songwriting.

By David Banner

The target age is 12 to 21-years-old, and there is no charge for the event which is being organised on behalf of Lichfield Arts.

"The course will run over four sessions – Sunday, June 3; Sunday, June 17, Sunday, June 24 and Sunday, July1," Rosie said.

"It's a fantastic chance for young beginner songwriters to develop their skills in songwriting and musical composition.

"There will be no restrictions on genre or style – anything goes.

"Participants need not worry too much about instrumental skills or levels, just a basic understanding of music is necessary.

"At the end of the course, each participant will have the chance to have their song performed in the last session.

"The songwriter does not have to perform their song themselves; they may ask someone else if they wish.

"Collaborations between songwriters on the course are also welcomed."

All sessions will be held at at Neon Studios, in New Road, Burntwood between 10am and midday.

For more information contact Glenn Tunley 01543 676912 or David Barton 07790 605546.

£30k grant for firm to expand

Addfield managing director Steve Lloyd

BURNTWOOD company Addfield Environmental Services is expanding, thanks to support from the Business Growth Programme (BGP) and Birmingham City Council.

The firm, based on Burntwood Business Park, specialises in the thermal processing of solid waste. In May 2017, the business moved all its manufacturing facilities under one roof in Burntwood as, before that, it had been spread across five locations. Having invested in a new location, it started to look into further investment opportunities.

Thanks to the Business Innovation Programme, the company received a grant of £30,000 to improve its organisational operation. Managing director Steve Lloyd said: "We are always looking to improve."

The Business Innovation Programme is one of four strands of support under the BGP, which is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

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Council and NHS in hi-tech link-up

STAFFORDSHIRE County Council is teaming up with the NHS to potentially save millions for the taxpayer.

The council's ICT department has been working to link the local authority and all NHS services in the county to the same computer network.

The revised network, which was implemented in 2017, also connects Staffordshire Fire and Rescue and all eight of the county's borough and district councils – connecting more than 30,000 workers across more than 500 sites.

Staffordshire and Shropshire Health Informatics Service (SSHIS) are involved with the initiative.

Mike Sutherland, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for finance, said: "Working together to share services wherever possible means we get the best value we can for taxpayers. So far, our collaboration is saving taxpayers around £3 million over five years."

Plan sets out objectives for how districts will develop

COUNTYWIDE plans to boost residents' access to good jobs, and promote healthy living and strong communities are to come under the microscope.

Staffordshire County Council's plan for delivering its priorities in each of the eight district and borough authorities has been scrutinised by a cross-party group of councillors interested in its implementation.

Highlights and objectives include:

Cannock Chase – developing a town centre masterplan with the district council, providing infrastructure for the Mill Green retail development and supporting the redevelopment of Rugeley power station.

Lichfield – support delivery of schemes to increase jobs and business rates in Lichfield and Burntwood; creating the necessary number of secondary school places to meet growing demand and use the new health centre at Burntwood for social prescribing – where appropriate.

South Staffordshire – identify appropriate housing and commercial development land, work with the district council to explore better use of public buildings in Codsall and ensure the area's growth plan includes ways of supporting older people.

County council leader Councillor Philip Atkins said: "The growth plans we are developing with each authority will identify development opportunities for the next 15 years and provide the backbone of our joint work to keep Staffordshire a great place to live, work and visit."

Finance director is to retire next year

CLAVERLEY finance director Rob Cross is to retire from the role in April 2019 after 16 years with the group.

He will continue as a non-executive director of the group, which includes Express & Star and Chronicles publisher Midland News Association, Channel Islands-based news group Guiton, Precision Colour Printing, Press Computers Systems (PCS) and Kennedy Publishing. He will also become a trustee of the Star Group Pension Scheme.

Mr Cross joined the group in 2003 working in the Channel Islands as finance director of CI Newsagents. He was appointed to the role of finance director of Claverley Group in 2008. Claverley chief executive Phil Inman said: "During his 10 years as finance director, Rob has provided great insight into the financial side of the Group."

Mr Cross will be succeeded by Gareth Williams, who has been operations director at PCS for three years.

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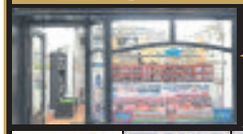

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Join last voyage of 'unsinkable ship'

He started off in Walsall. But theatrical director Thom Southerland has created one of the biggest theatrical productions of the year with Titanic. As a child, the daring and ambitious former pupil of Barr Beacon School used to watch productions at Birmingham's Hippodrome.

And on Monday he'll return to the Hippodrome for a week-long run with Titanic: The Musical, which ends on June 9.

In the final hour of April 14, 1912, the RMS Titanic, on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, collided with an iceberg and 'the unsinkable ship' slowly sank. It was one of the most tragic and infamous disasters of the 20th century. A total of 1,517 men, women and children lost their lives.

Based on real people aboard the most legendary ship in the world, Maury Yeston and Peter Stone's stunning musical focuses on their hopes and aspirations. Unaware of the fate that awaits them, the Third Class immigrants dream of a better life in America, the newly-enfranchised Second Class dream of achieving the lifestyles of the rich and famous, and the millionaire Barons of the First Class dream of their mastery lasting forever.

Thom, a former Express & Star paper boy who delivered newspapers to top up his pocket money, explains: "The musical started life in New York. A composer-lyricist had the idea to do a musical retelling of The Titanic – and most people thought that was the worst idea ever. How could we make a musical of one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century?

"But it is incredible. I heard the score on a CD. It had never been to the UK. The music is not about a ship. It's about the people who were on it."

The musical has been around the world during the past five years, growing each time.

"I can't be more happy than to think this show is touring the UK. It's our story and our legend; there are so many people that associate with it or are fascinated with it. It's because of the people and the stations and everything that people identify with."

The Hippodrome was where it all began for Thom. He was born in Walsall and went there as a kid to watch pantomimes and musicals. "This is the first time one of my shows will head to the Hippodrome. It wells me up when I think about it. I was born in Walsall, went to Barr Beacon School and we had a teacher, Mr Daniels, who would put on school plays. The teachers would let us act and that encouraged me so much."

He went to the theatre as well, in addition to classes for drama. Since then, his work has gone to America and Japan – but never Birmingham.

"When I was in Walsall, I did acting stuff. Then because I didn't think I was good enough to do that professionally, I desperately wanted to be part of it so I turned to directing.

"I remember going to see a show at the Hippodrome with my grandma and she'd say 'it's beautiful music' and I realised there was more than one way to do it. I went and studied as a director and I've just been very fortunate."

When Thom trained as a director, he was always interested in musical theatre. He wanted to redefine the genre, moving away from big, epic shows to ones where the story was at the heart of things.

"Musicals can get a bad rep for being cheesey or old fashioned or not as worthy as plays that are in Stratford-upon-Avon. But I said there's no reason why you can't take a musical as seriously as the RSC."

The greatest tragedy – Titianic: The Musical tells the tale

So he started to put on his own shows in very, very small theatres, meeting the bills with his credit card. Instead of shows playing the London Palladium, he took them to 50-seat theatres and asked actors to play their own instruments.

The rest is history and Thom has become a hot property.

"With Titanic, there was these huge sets they tried to replicate what the titanic looked like. We don't need to see it anymore. So when we see the musical, we see things you don't know. It's all about telling the story. There's no need, like James Cameron did, to make bits up and make fake love affairs up. There was 2,500 people on the ship – you don't have to make it up because those people were all living, breathing human beings who had fascinating stories of their own.

"I always tell the actors when I'm working on it. For half of the show, you think you are going to live a new life in a new world. They were aboard the largest moving object in the world, which was also the most glamorous and luxurious. They were experiencing the happiest day of their life.

"Everybody who worked there or who had bought a ticket were thrilled. The Titanic was monumental, the best in the world. They had all achieved.

"And then only four days later, they met their fate in the middle of the north Atlantic, through nobody's fault, in my humble opinion. Our job is to pay tribute to the people who sailed in her and understand what she was supposed to do and supposed to represent. Then to lay testament to the people who sailed in her. It's a disrespect to the people who lost their lives to make up fake love stories.

"Personally, I don't think you can comprehend the hugeness of the tragedy unless you bring it down to a parallel, the experience of one human being. Just as we can't understand the horrors of Nazi Germany but we can understand the diary of Anne Frank."

Andy Richardson

The music is not about a ship. It's about the people who were on it

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

The Lady Boys of Bangkok

Oh boy! It's a saucy start to June at the Grand

DREAMBOYS and Lady Boys add up to a memorable series of one-off concerts at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre to get June off to a saucy start.

Joined by celebrity Jake Quickenden (from The X Factor, I'm A Celebrity... and Dancing On Ice), The Dreamboys strut their stuff on Wednesday (June 6).

Then cabaret favourites The Lady Boys of Bangkok bring their glamour to the Grand on June 7 with their Wonder Women Tour. The glitzy show features the Lady Boys' tributes to Cher, Diana Ross, Shirley Bassey, Lady Gaga and Wonder Woman herself.

Before those shows, more traditional old fashioned fun can be seen at the Lichfield Street venue for three performances from Monday to Tuesday in A Grand Music Hall. Hosted by the Grand's regular panto dame Ian Adams, the variety show features actor Keith Minshull, pianist Guy Rowland, illusionists Van Buren and Allyson, singer Julie Paton and, topping the bill, former Crackerjack and Good Morning Sunday host Don Maclean. There will be prizes for the best 'Good Old Days' costumes.

More nostalgia on Saturday (June 9) when the swing era is recalled with the music of The Glenn Miller Orchestra. The show also features the Moonlight Serenaders, the Swing Time Jivers and the Polka Dots with their tribute to the Andrews Sisters. That will certainly get you 'In The Mood' for some 40s favourites. For more details see grandtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01902 429212.

Her heart in Havana – her gig is in Brum

CHART-TOPPING singer Camila Cabello is hitting the road for her first solo tour.

Cabello's Never Be The Same tour follows the immediate success of her self-titled debut album. She will headline Birmingham's O2 on Wednesday (June 6). The Cuban-American singer and songwriter rose to fame as a member of the girl group Fifth Harmony, which was formed during the second season of The X Factor US in 2012. She began to establish herself as a solo artist with the release of several collaborations, including Bad Things with Machine Gun Kelly, which reached number four on the US Billboard Hot 100.

After leaving Fifth Harmony in December 2016, she released the solo single Crying in the Club. Refocusing her sound to Latin-influenced music, her eponymous debut studio album Camila (2018) entered at number one on the US Billboard 200, supported by its lead single Havana, which topped the charts in several countries, including the UK and the US.

She said the success of Havana was empowering: "I think it really gave me a certain buzz of confidence. When you're a new solo artist, people are kind of scared to do stuff that's different because they just want to go with what's already being played on the radio. They want to stick to the formula.

"We didn't even release 'Havana' as a single because no one believed in it enough. They were like 'Oh that's a cool song but it's definitely not what you want as a single from your album.' So when it worked, I was like, 'Nobody really knows anything, so you might as well go with what you love.' It was super-validating. It taught me this huge lesson of going with what you feel and you like."

Jane sails in for sell out shows

Singer and TV presenter Jane McDonald will be playing to full houses when she entertains at Birmingham's New Alexander Theatre next Friday (June 8) and returns to the region at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on September 23. She found fame as a cruise ship singer in reality TV show The Cruise and is celebrating 20 years since she first sailed onto our screens. Now the Wakefield warbler is celebrating winning a Bafta for Channel 5 travel show Cruising with Jane McDonald.

It is going to be a hit, man, all over again

Agent 47 is put to the test in HITMAN: Definitive Edition (18), as Danish studio IO Interative celebrates its 20th anniversary by bringing together the original award-winning video game with all of its previously released content and updates. It also includes new disguises for the stealthy assassin anti-hero which pay tribute to some of their other popular titles .
The ICA agent, a Mark Strong look-alike, has exotic locations to choose from in Europe, Africa, America and the Far East as he hones his skills on missions to find and eliminate various targets.
Warner Bros have taken on the title, which has a similar feel to their Batman franchise with emphasis on sneaking and surprise. An internet connection is needed as not all the add-ons are pre-loaded on the disc. It is available for Xbox One and PlayStation 4.

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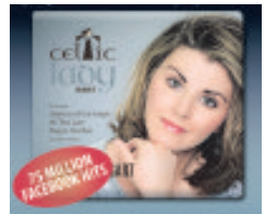

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SATURDAY'S TV JUNE 2

CHOICE

Gareth Southgate

Live International Football (ITV, 5pm)

England v Nigeria (Kick-off 5.15pm). Coverage of the friendly encounter at Wembley Stadium, where both sides continue their preparations for this month's World Cup. England have just this match and one against Costa Rica to play before they fly out to Russia, where they will begin their campaign against Tunisia on June 18th. Gareth Southgate has named a relatively inexperienced squad for the finals, but will be using this fixture to assess his options, while Nigeria also have the World Cup to look forward to, and group fixtures against Argentina, Croatia and Iceland. Mark Pougatch presents, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Diamond League Rome Highlights. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Wigan Warriors (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.05 Film: Shrek 2. (2004) The grouchy ogre and his new wife Princess Fiona set out on a journey to meet her parents. However, the king and queen are less than impressed with their daughter's choice of husband, while a conniving fairy godmother is determined to make sure her own son gets to marry the princess. Animated adventure sequel, with the voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy, Antonio Banderas, John Cleese, Julie Andrews, Jennifer Saunders and Rupert Everett.

7.30 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a Radio 2-themed edition, with contestants including Jo Whiley, Jeremy Vine, Zoe Ball, Michael Ball and Ken Bruce. (R)

8.20 Casualty. Alicia struggles to process the events of her night with Eddie, and collapses after refusing to take a break. Just as she starts to tell Ethan about her problems, Elle interrupts.

9.10 All Round to Mrs Brown's. Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's famous cardigan and curlers once again, throwing open the doors of the larger-than-life Irish matriarch's home to host the Saturday night chat show, filmed in front of a live studio audience. Joining in the fun this time around are musical duo Sting & Shaggy, This Morning's resident chef and star of Celebrity Juice Gino D'Acampo, Loose Women presenter Christine Lampard, and Dragons' Den stalwarts Peter Jones and Deborah Meaden.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Film: Meet the Fockers. (2004) Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro.

12.20 The Button. (R) **12.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.05** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengineers. **8.00** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Steve Backshall v the Monster Mountain. (R) **10.00** Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** SAS: Rogue Warriors. (R) **1.00** The World According to Kids. (R) **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.30** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **3.30** Love in the Countryside. (R) **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.20** Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? (R)

6.20 The Forest. The Galloway Hills Rally draws crowds of visitors to the park, while tree planter Alastair Livingstone restocks a recently felled site with sycamore and oak. (R)

6.50 Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea leaves its mark on a visiting French general when the platoon repaints Lady Maltby's Rolls-Royce just in time for an official engagement. (R)

7.20 Film: Ladies in Lavender. (2004) The lives of two elderly spinster sisters are thrown into turmoil when a handsome Polish castaway washes up on the shore by their Cornish home and reawakens long-dormant yearnings and memories. Period drama directed by Charles Dance, starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Daniel Brühl, Miriam Margolyes, Natascha McElhone and Freddie Jones.

9.00 Nothing Like a Dame. Eileen Atkins, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright and Maggie Smith let the cameras in on a friendship that goes back more than half a century. Coming together for a weekend at the country retreat Dame Joan once shared with her husband Laurence Olivier, the acting greats discuss their lives and careers, reminisce about their humble beginnings in the theatre, and reflect on love and loss.

10.30 All Girls Live at the Apollo. A female-only special of the comedy show in which leading performers from the stand-up circuit entertain a packed house at London's Hammersmith Apollo.

11.15 Later Weekend with Jools Holland.

12.15 Film: Quartet. (2012) **1.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball On Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Little Big Shots. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing Live: The Derby. Including coverage of the 4.30 Investec Derby. **5.00** Live International Football. England v Nigeria (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.30 ITV News; Weather.

7.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

8.00 The British Soap Awards 2018. Phillip Schofield presents coverage of the event from London's Hackney Empire, featuring awards including Best Actor, Best Actress, Villain of the Year, Best Comedy Performance, Best Newcomer, Best Single Episode and Best Storyline. The Outstanding Achievement award will be presented to a long-standing member of the soap community, while one of Coronation Street, Doctors, EastEnders, Emmerdale and Hollyoaks will take home the coveted Best British Soap gong.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 International Football Highlights. England v Nigeria. The key moments from the friendly international at Wembley Stadium, which was a vital one for Gareth Southgate's men in preparation for the World Cup.

11.15 Film: Rocky. (1976) A struggling boxer gets an unexpected shot at taking on the heavyweight champion of the world. Oscar-winning drama, starring Sylvester Stallone, Burgess Meredith and Carl Weathers.

1.30 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. Harry pushes ahead with plans for the Selfridge Estate, aiming to buy a field at auction, but an unexpected rival bidder poses a threat. Miss Mardle makes her mark in fashion. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.30** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.20** Frasier. (R) **9.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Film: Iron Man 2. (2010) Tycoon-turned-superhero Tony Stark confronts a fearsome new foe in a Russian scientist using his own deadly hi-tech weapons to seek revenge. He also faces a struggle to keep his secrets out of the hands of both the government and an amoral rival, and discovers the armour he developed to fight evil is slowly killing him. Action adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr and Don Cheadle.

9.20 Live International Rugby Union. South Africa v Wales (Kick-off 10.00pm). Lee McKenzie presents coverage of the international fixture, staged at the RFK Stadium in Washington, DC. Wales move on to South America following this match for a two-Test tour of Argentina, and will be looking to improve on their recent record against the Springboks. With analysis from Ryan Jones, Ugo Monye and Thinus Delport, and reports from Sam Warburton, Alun Wyn Jones, Ken Owens and Jonathan Davies.

12.15 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Part two of two. Gordon Ramsay gives the owners of La Galleria 33 an ultimatum. (R) **1.05** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Ste is furious to learn that Leah has sold a story to a gossip magazine, while an old face turns up in the village making financial demands. (R) **3.20** Building the Dream. Charlie Luxton heads to Cornwall to help serial renovators Neil and Suzie with a contemporary build that is not just set to be very grand, but Suzie wants it finished by Christmas. (R) **4.15** My Kitchen Rules. Harrogate best friends Anna and Faye open a health-conscious restaurant. (R) **5.10** Jamie's Comfort Food. Gennaro Contaldo helps Jamie Oliver make bolognese ravioli. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)

6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Sheriff Paul Bohill tackles the case of a small debt owed by ex-footballer Neil Ruddock, before being forced to evict a school dinner lady in south London. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Pakistan. Action from the second day of the Second Test in the two-match series, which took place at Emerald Headingley Stadium. Commentary and analysis is provided by Michael Vaughan, Mark Nicholas, Geoff Boycott, Alison Mitchell, Sourav Ganguly and Charles Dagnall.

8.00 Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family. The series concludes with a look at the queen's efforts to control her children's personal lives, arranging a marriage for Princess Louise to a gay Scottish lord and refusing to let Prince Leopold to pursue an education at Oxford owing to his ill health – which he had already passed on to his children. The programme also examines how Princess Beatrice got married against her mother's will and the arrival of Indian servant Abdul Karim in the royal household. Last in the series.

9.00 Elizabeth I: Death of a Dynasty. The drama-documentary examines the Tudor queen's rousing speech at Tilbury, her decline into old age, and the Earl of Essex's betrayal. Last in the series. (R)

10.00 Agatha Christie's Crooked House. Adaptation of the mystery novel, starring Max Irons and Terence Stamp. A man returning to London from Cairo investigates the poisoning of his fiancee's grandfather. (R)

11.05 5 News Update.

11.10 Agatha Christie's Crooked House. Adaptation of the mystery novel, starring Max Irons. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** The Cabin in the Woods. (2012)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Burrowers: Animals Underground **8.00** Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.50** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean **11.50** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.50** Kate Bush at the BBC **1.50** Hot Chocolate at the BBC **2.50** How to Get Ahead: At Renaissance Court **3.50** Close

ITV2

11.05 Britain's Got Talent **12.40** Britain's Got Talent Results **1.05** Ninja Warrior UK **2.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.10 Film:** Red Riding Hood (2011) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15 Film:** Red Riding Hood (2011) **5.20 Film:** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **8.00 Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **10.40** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.40** CelebAbility **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

2.45 Film: Columbo: By Dawn's Early Light (1974) **4.50** Lewis **7.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.15** On the Buses **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

9.00 Isle of Man TT **10.00 Film:** Platoon (1986) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15 Film:** Platoon (1986) **12.25 Film:** This Is the End (2013) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35 Film:** This Is the End (2013) **2.35** Football Rivalries **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **1.55 Film:** The Core (2003) **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Speed (1994) **11.20** Gogglebox **1.25** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **2.30** Rude Tube **3.25** Gogglebox **4.15** Rude(ish) Tube **4.40** How I Met Your Mother

Film4

11.00 Rugrats in Paris: The Movie (2000) **1.00** Epic (2013) **3.05** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.45** Dr Dolittle 2 (2001) **6.35** Beautiful Creatures (2013) **9.00** The Other Woman (2014) A woman discovers her boyfriend is married, and joins forces with his wife and a third lover to get revenge. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann and Kate Upton. **11.10** The Greasy Strangler (2016) Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Michael St Michaels. **1.00** The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2 (1986) **3.10** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV JUNE 3

CHOICE

Frankie Boyle

Frankie Goes to Russia (BBC2, 9pm)

Part one of two. Frankie Boyle explores Russia in advance of the World Cup, looking at what lies behind national stereotypes and exploring the country's football culture. In the first episode, he visits the seaside town hosting the England team and a city renowned for football-related violence. He also joins a daredevil motorbike football team, records a world cup rap, and meets the sabre-wielding Cossacks policing the World Cup stadiums.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Garden Rescue. (R) **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Britain's Best Home Cook. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. A special episode from the royal family's Balmoral estate. Matt Baker visits Glamis castle, ancestral seat of the Queen Mother, while Ellie Harrison explores Ballochbuie Forest and goes in search of wood grouse and a royal stag.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

9.00 A Very English Scandal. Hugh Grant and Ben Whishaw star in the conclusion of Russell T Davies' drama based on the true story of the downfall of political leader Jeremy Thorpe. Norman survives a bungled attempt on his life, and publicly accuses Jeremy of having hired the would-be killer to silence him – an act which finally brings their secret relationship into the public eye for the first time. With the world watching, the ensuing court case drags years of acrimony between the two men into the light, as a man who would be prime minister stands trial for conspiracy to murder. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Imagine – Margaret Atwood: You Have Been Warned! Alan Yentob meets the Canadian author in Toronto to discover how a childhood spent between the wilderness and the city helped shape her vision of herself and the world. (R)

11.35 Film: Up in the Air. (2009) A corporate downsizing expert finds his emotionally detached lifestyle under threat from an executive with revolutionary ideas. Comedy drama, with George Clooney and Vera Farmiga.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.45** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.45** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.30** Live Rowing World Cup. **3.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Dragons' Den. More entrepreneurs present their money-making ideas to the panellists, including pitches for natural raw dog food, a date-based smoothie and a free-running exercise regimen. (R)

7.00 Million Pound Menu. Fred Sirieix presents the fine dining challenge which follows people who work in the food business as they seek major investment to launch their own restaurants. (R)

8.00 Journey in the Danger Zone: Iraq. Part one of two. Former soldier Adnan Sarwar explores the country to see how it has changed since he was last there as part of the occupying force in 2003.

9.00 Frankie Goes to Russia. Part one of two. Frankie Boyle explores Russia in advance of the World Cup, beginning with a visit to the seaside town hosting the England team and a city renowned for violence.

10.00 Atlanta. A rival rapper steals the spotlight from Paper Boi at a charity basketball event, and Earn spots a chance to raise his professional profile when he is mistaken for someone else.

10.20 Atlanta. Van is irritated by her successful old friend Jayde, but the pair find a way to put aside their differences while smoking weed – until Van remembers she is due a drug test at work.

10.45 Live at the Apollo. Glaswegian comedian Frankie Boyle takes to the stage at London's Hammersmith Apollo, and introduces rising stars Jack Carroll and Holly Walsh. (R)

11.15 Film: The Spectacular Now. (2013) A teenage loner bonds with a drunken classmate who helps her create a new persona for herself to boost her confidence. Drama, starring Miles Teller.

12.45 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball On Sunday. **9.25** Countrywise: Secret Wild Places. (R) **10.25 Film:** Casino Royale. (1967) **1.00** ITV News; Weather. **1.10 Film:** St Trinian's. (2007) Comedy, starring Rupert Everett. **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** Celebrity Catchphrase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as Westlife's Nicky Byrne, Olympian Amy Williams, Natalie Cassidy (EastEnders' Sonia Jackson) and Dave Myers of The Hairy Bikers pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R)

7.30 Britain's Got Talent Final. Declan Donnelly hosts the live final of the nationwide talent search as the 12th series draws to a climax. A wide variety of acts have stepped in front of judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams eager to impress, and tonight the last remaining contestants will be putting in one last performance to earn the votes of the viewing public and get the chance to be crowned champion, win £250,000 and take to the stage in a coveted slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance. Last in the series.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Les Dawson Forever. A tribute to the life and career of the TV comedy star, with contributions by Barry Cryer, Rick Wakeman, Johnny Vegas, Lorraine Chase, Les's widow Tracy, and his daughter Charlotte. (R)

12.10 Great Art. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.30** Eat the Week. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55 Film:** Eragon. (2006) Fantasy adventure, starring Ed Speleers. **5.00 Film:** Johnny English. (2003) Spy comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick gets to work on the walled garden in the spring and buys a mini tractor for the job – but it may not fit through the gate. Angel designs another suite, with black walls and mosaic mirrors, and decorates the entire dining room with blossoms so a guest can make a special wedding proposal. The couple also consider the possibility of truffle farming. (R)

8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Liam Charles and Tom Allen present the halfway point of the patisserie contest, with the five remaining teams being challenged to prepare 24 opera slices and 24 exotic fruit roulades, before putting a modern spin on classic French pastry the religieuse. Judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin will then decide which duo is not going through to the next round.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. Offred reflects on her relationship with her mother as she navigates her way through Gilead. In Little America, Moira tries to cope with the trauma she endured.

10.15 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers panel game, with Sean Lock joined by Johnny Vegas, and special guest captain Sarah Millican joining forces with Rob Beckett. (R)

11.15 Naked Attraction. Dating show hosted by Anna Richardson in which two singletons choose a date from a selection of six naked people, who will be revealed to them one body part at a time. (R)

12.15 Film: The Other Boleyn Girl. (2008) Historical drama, starring Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson. **2.10** Building the Dream. (R) **3.05** My Kitchen Rules. (R) **4.00** Gillette World Sport. **4.25** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **4.50** Food Unwrapped. (R) **5.10** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Naughty Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **2.20** Naughty Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **3.20** Disobedient Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **4.20** Most Shocking Talent Show Moments. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Pakistan. Action from the third day of the Second Test in the two-match series.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 The Unstoppable Flying Scotsman. During its lifetime, the Flying Scotsman has broken records, travelled the world, starred in a movie and even bankrupted its owners. Engineer Rob Bell presents the first of a two-part documentary charting the history of the world's most famous steam locomotive, looking at why has it inspired such affection among steam fans and still attracts huge crowds wherever it goes. (R)

9.00 The Flying Scotsman: A Legend Reborn. Part two of two. Rob Bell reveals how enthusiast Alan Pegler saved the locomotive when British Railways announced plans to scrap it in 1962. (R)

10.00 Top of the Box 95: TV's Most Controversial Year. The 20 highest rated TV shows of 1995, including One Foot in the Grave, Father Ted, Shooting Stars, Peak Practice, Brookside, and Martin Bashir's interview with Princess Diana.

11.55 Best of Bad TV: The 00s. TV gaffes of the 2000s, a decade that saw Gary Barlow trying to act, Edwina Currie performing a Wife Swap with John McCririck and someone taking a right pop at Danny Dyer. (R)

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Traffic Cops. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways **8.00** How to Build Britain's Secret Engineers **9.00** Normandy '44: The Battle Beyond D-Day **10.00** The Jeremy Thorpe Scandal **11.00** Amazon Abyss **12.00** Civilisations Stories: The Empire **12.30** Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways **1.30** How to Build Britain's Secret Engineers **2.30** Return to Larkinland **3.30** Close

ITV2

11.45 Film: The Flintstones (1994) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **1.30 Film:** Planet 51 (2009) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40 Film:** Planet 51 (2009) **3.25 Film:** Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30 Film:** Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **5.30 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.30** FYI Daily **6.35 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.30 Film:** Battleship (2012) **8.30** FYI Daily **8.35 Film:** Battleship (2012) **10.05** Britain's Got More Talent Live **11.05** Family Guy **1.00** American Dad! **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.05 Film: The Likely Lads (1976) **12.50 Film:** Rising Damp (1980) **2.50** A Touch of Frost **4.50** Endeavour **7.00** Vera **9.00** Unforgotten **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.20** Liverpool 1 **3.20** Road to Avonlea **5.05** George and Mildred **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

9.00 Isle of Man TT **10.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights **11.00** World Rugby U20 Championship Highlights **12.00** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **1.00** Fifth Gear **2.00** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.25 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.55** Young Sheldon **1.25** The Big Bang Theory **6.15 Film:** The Hunger Games (2012) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.00** Gogglebox Australia **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** Gogglebox Australia **3.50** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **1.00** Ponyo (2008) **3.05** Tooth Fairy (2010) **5.10** Carry On Nurse (1959) **6.50** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) **9.00** Last Vegas (2013) Comedy, starring Michael Douglas. **11.05** Prometheus (2012) Sci-fi thriller, starring Noomi Rapace. **1.30** The Paperboy (2012) **3.45** Close

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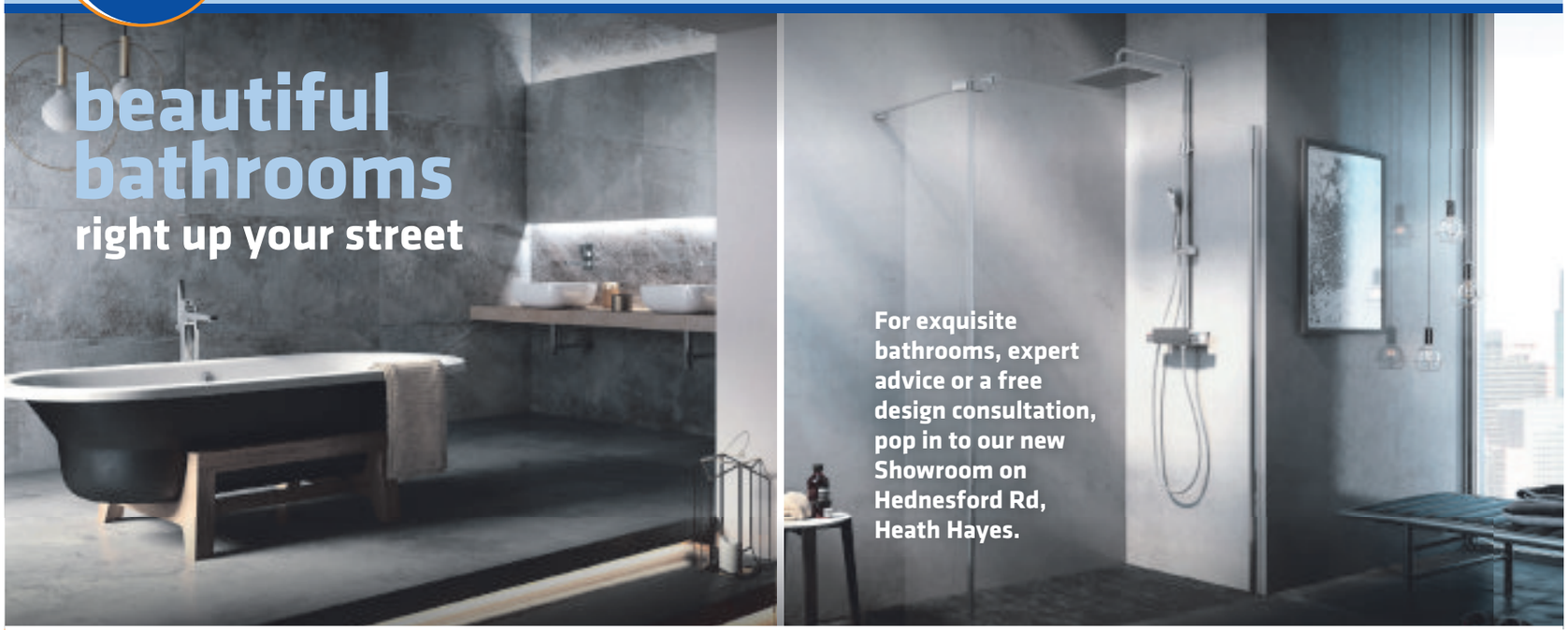

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PICK OF THE WEEK

Acclaimed drama makes a welcome return to the screen

Following a successful six-part first series, the acclaimed school drama, returns.

Set in a fictional Yorkshire mill town, Ackley Bridge follows the trials and tribulations at a new academy made up from two formerly isolated comprehensives – one predominantly white and the other Asian.

Predictably, the educational experiment in multiculturalism hasn't always gone to plan, and neighbours and best friends soon found themselves on different sides of a racial divide.

"Do they think they can keep us quiet with a lick of paint and some cr*p about learning to live together?" the show's most entertaining if not likeable character Jordan memorably asked, after breaking into the school office.

As well as the whole education integration topic, there were plenty of other weighty topics covered in Ackley Bridge's first season.

Dubbed the new Waterloo Road and also drawing comparisons to Shameless when it first aired, it got off to a bang with a girl posting a nude selfie of her mother online, while other subjects tackles included religious prejudice, bullying and a major death.

The second series gets under way tonight as, in a bid to disguise her sexuality, Nas (Amy-Leigh Hickman) agrees to a sham engagement with Naveed (Gurjeet Singh) – who is also in the closet.

However, as she reels from the discovery of a family secret, Nas struggles to continue the lie and emotions run high at the family engagement dinner.

Headmistress Mandy (Jo Joyner) is still under pressure from wealthy school sponsor and Head of Academy Trust, Sadiq (Adil Ray).

Both the Year 7 intake and exam results have plummeted, forcing her to instigate a strict academic regime that causes uproar among staff and students alike.

English teacher Emma (Liz White) and Mandy's friendship is tested when they clash over the decision and Emma allows the students to protest.

Emma also has affairs of the heart to deal with, and on the day of Sami's (Arsher Ali) wedding, she struggles to hide her feelings for him.

Finally, Missy (Poppy Lee Friar) and Nas cause trouble for Jordan when they steal his drugs money. Will the cocky lad finally get his comeuppance?

Joining the cast for this new series is Kimberly Walsh.

The Girls Aloud singer, who has had small roles in Disney series The Lodge and Horrid Henry: The Movie, plays home-wrecking netball teacher Claire, who is also the ex-wife of Paul Nicholls' character Steve.

Walsh said: "It was so much fun appearing as Claire. It's a fantastic show with a brilliant cast. It was an honour to be part of it.

"Claire is quite different to other characters I've played in the past. She is sassy and strong and comes to blows a few times with Mandy, which was really fun to play."

Ackley Bridge, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Killer in Paradise, Channel 5, 3.20pm

While on a dream vacation with her husband, a woman becomes a target after she starts to suspect one of the island's locals may have committed multiple murders. Thriller, starring Jackie Moore, Barbie Castro, Brian Gross, Jordi Vilasuso, Brian Patrick Clarke and Jacy King. (2018)

TUESDAY

Escaping Evil: Saving My Children, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Erin believes that she has left her Mob ties behind after being placed in a witness protection programme. However, the man she thought she had killed turns up under an assumed identity and bent on revenge, meaning she must protect her new life and her family. Thriller, starring Mia Kirshner and Paul McGillion. (2014)

WEDNESDAY

Seduced by a Stranger, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A single mother's life is turned upside down when an international conman Martin to her neighbourhood. Thriller, starring Chandra West, Steve Bacic and Cate Sproule. (2017)

Bend It Like Beckham, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY

Girlfriend Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A businesswoman who creates the perfect marriage proposals for wealthy men, becomes the target of a crazy client's obsession when she shows him compassion after his girlfriend publicly rejects him. Thriller, starring Dina Meyer, Corin Nemec and Barbie Castro. (2017)

FRIDAY

Bend It Like Beckham, ITV, 10.45pm

An English schoolgirl tries to hide her passion for football from her strict Indian parents, knowing they disapprove of her tomboyish love of the game. However, when a semi-professional player sees her in action, she is offered a place on a team, forcing her to come up with a complex plan to keep her sporting career under wraps. Comedy, with Parminder Nagra, Keira Knightley, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Juliet Stevenson and Shaznay Lewis. (2002)

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Versailles

BBC2, 9pm

New series. Louis celebrates France's victory over the Protestant Dutch and their allies by welcoming Leopold of Hungary and his niece Eleanor to Versailles, but the defeated emperor's own ambitions could have personal consequences for the French king. Madame de Montespan finds a way to hurt a former friend in the king's prim companion Francois de Maintenon, while Philippe returns a war hero, accompanied by his brother-in-arms Guillaume, who is rewarded by the King for his bravery in battle.

TUESDAY

Our Girl

BBC1, 9pm

It's a busy week for Michelle Keegan – on Wednesday she kicks off a new run of Who Do You Think You Are?, but first she's back as Lance Corporal Georgie Lane in the latest run of the military drama. As the series begins, Georgie is still heartbroken over the death of Elvis Harte. She copes by throwing herself into her job – which in this series involves 2 Section heading to Nigeria as part of the British Army's efforts to help train local forces in the fight against terror. However, both the Brits and the Nigerian Army are put on edge when they encounter a local crime boss and a band of mercenaries in a village near the site where a group of school girls were abducted. 2 Section step in to help the local authorities track down the girls, but Georgie unwittingly places herself and her comrades in danger.

WEDNESDAY

Great Rail Restorations with Peter Snow

Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Peter Snow and Henry Cole visit projects across the country where teams of restoration experts are attempting to restore historic railway carriages to their former glory. The first stop is the stunning Vale of Llangollen in North Wales, to visit a 1912 carriage designed by Sir Nigel Gresley, the creator of the Flying Scotsman, where Henry explores how the emergency cord was invented and learns how rail travellers coped before toilets were introduced on trains.

Grenfell: The First 24 Hours

ITV, 9pm

In the early hours of June 14, 2017, a blaze broke out at Grenfell Tower in west London, claiming 72 lives and injuring many others. ITV is marking the approach of the appalling tragedy's first anniversary with this moving documentary in which survivors recall the events of that terrible night, one that rocked not only the local community, but the entire country. The programme charts exactly what happened, from the first report of the fire to the London Fire Brigade getting it under control 24 hours later. Among those featured are residents Clarita Ghavini, who was found by a neighbour, and Sammy Wordy, who remains haunted by the screams of a woman trapped inside. There's also testimony from a firefighter who rescued nine people that night.

Our Girl, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY

Supershoppers

Channel 4, 8pm

New series. The consumer advice show returns with Anna Richardson and Sabrina Grant providing the lowdown on favourite brands and retailers, as well as tips on how to get the best deals. They begin with a look at retail giant John Lewis, investigating whether its famous price promise can always be trusted. There is also an undercover report from a major UK high-street chain catching sales staff giving shoppers suspect advice. Plus, reports on what goes into dairy-free milk drinks, supermarket value brands and which batteries last the longest.

FRIDAY

Cruising with Jane McDonald

Channel 5, 9pm

For some people, this entertaining travelogue used to be something of a guilty pleasure, but now it's won a Bafta (the first in Channel 5's history), there's no need to hide your love of Jane McDonald any longer. And for newcomers who are wondering what all the fuss is about, this two-part special is the perfect place to start. It finds Jane exploring Australia and New Zealand, beginning with an open-top bus tour of Sydney and a trip to the Opera House, where she finds herself centre stage. Then it's on to Tasmania, where the presenter meets the staff and furry inhabitants of a wildlife sanctuary, before she heads to New Zealand and Milford Sound, which lives up to its billing as the wettest place on Earth.

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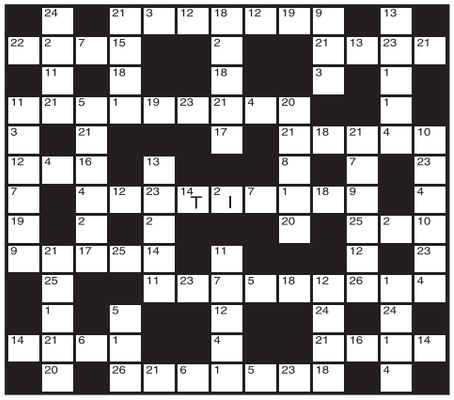
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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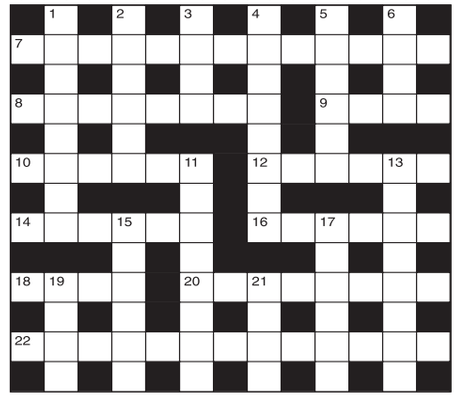
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D	E	M	O	A	X	F	H	R	J	T	P	V
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
I	L	Q	Z	W	S	C	B	G	U	N	K	Y

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Marksmen who have meteoric careers? (8,5)
8. Insect with a lot to learn (8)
9. Where to put money to work (4)
10. Stays to give personal support (6)
12. Do real results come from such a testing experience? (6)
14. A wild horse on land (6)
16. Eagerly Len rummaged about in the locker (6)
18. Yet she may be a hit with the boys (4)
20. It's rash returning yet has some worth inside (8)
22. It offers protection to buyer and seller alike (7,6)

Down

1. Find her with nothing on in beds, smoking them? (8)
2. They don't like gooseberries (6)
3. It's not evident the plaintiff has a quarrel (4)
4. Not a pretty sight on the face of things (4,4)
5. Tasted differently, it's said (6)
6. A test for which there is something to be said (4)
11. What scores of young people are in? (8)
13. Hub-hub (4-4)
15. Love duets freshly turned out (6)
17. Slips in proofs of humanity? (6)
19. A club with lofty aims (4)
21. This reminds me to go to the doctor (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Scrupulous (13)
8. Valuer (8)
9. Portent (4)
10. Acrid (6)
12. Character (6)
14. Fault (6)
16. Mystery (6)
18. Close (4)
20. Amicable (8)
22. Dull (13)

Down

1. Plot (8)
2. Aver (6)
3. Mental powers (4)
4. Gate (8)
5. Equip (3,3)
6. Entice (4)
11. Confirmed (8)
13. Disconnected (8)
15. Scope (6)
17. Catch fire (6)
19. Suspend (4)
21. Notion (4)

Sudoku

	7			4			1	
			7		2	9	5	
9	5	4			8			3
2			6	5				
	6					3	2	
		8		9	3			1
8			3			4	9	5
		7	9					
	9			1			8	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	2	1	7	5	8	4	3	6
6	8	3	4	9	2	5	7	1
5	7	4	6	1	3	9	8	2
7	5	8	3	2	9	1	6	4
3	6	2	1	4	7	8	5	9
4	1	9	8	6	5	7	2	3
2	3	5	9	7	1	6	4	8
1	4	7	2	8	6	3	9	5
8	9	6	5	3	4	2	1	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Ebbs; 8 The marines; 9 Playmate; 10 Sofa; 12 Moment; 14 Tremor; 15 Stream; 17 Castle; 18 Eric; 19 Tent-pegs; 21 Elasticity; 22 Sash. Down: 2 Bill-poster; 3 Stay; 4 Repast; 5 Talent; 6 Minsters; 7 Asia; 11 Footlights; 13 Exercise; 16 Metric; 17 Candid; 18 Ewer; 20 Pays.
QUICK - Across: 1 Feel; 8 Answer back; 9 Ladybird; 10 East; 12 Marine; 14 Devise; 15 Middle; 17 Sudden; 18 Snag; 19 Browbeat; 21 Mountebank; 22 Ekes. Down: 2 Excavation; 3 Lady; 4 Aspire; 5 Headed; 6 Observed; 7 Skit; 11 Sustenance; 13 Indigent; 16 Emblem; 17 Slogan; 18 Same; 20 Bake.

Quiz

1. Who became South Africa's first executive state president in 1984?
2. Which increasingly-common medical condition is treated with a bronchodilator?
3. From which flower is orrisroot obtained?
4. Of which bird is the ptarmigan a variety?
5. Who is the Greek counterpart of the Roman goddess Pax?
6. Which school featured in a series of films by Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat?
7. Who founded the Society of Friends?
8. When was the Domesday Book completed?
9. To which church do the Moonies belong?
10. Which choirboy had a hit with Walking In The Air?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Santiago; 2 Greenpeace; 3 L Ron Hubbard; 4 England and Scotland; 5 John Grisham; 6 Lockjaw; 7 Ottorino Respighi; 8 Cyclades; 9 Elaine Paige; 10 Graham Greene.

Niner: UNLATCHED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4563123 gives a sorcerer,
956167 gives a second sorcerer,
274567823 gives a third sorcerer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Star quality Ivy really grows on you

LAVISH doesn't come close. The new 155-seat, three-floor, The Ivy restaurant at Birmingham's Temple Row, which opened in April, is the acme of style.

Created by the group behind the world- famous celebrity haunt of the same name in London, it's been the most eagerly-anticipated restaurant opening in the Second City this year.

Leather banquettes in a dreamy shade of burnt orange mix with plenty of green palates and stunning Art Deco glass, lights and artwork to create a venue that's part-restaurant, part-art-installation. It is, in a word, stunning.

Oozing wow and housed in the former Louis Vuitton boutique, The Ivy has the same sort of luxury that the designer label provided, though without prohibitive prices. Sophisticated but relaxed, classy but informal, it's a real Bobby Dazzler that offers customers the sort of food that people like to eat – rather than pretentious dishes designed to impress.

COMFORT

And so, for instance, the menu features such brilliant comfort food as The Ivy shepherd's pie – it's on my list for my next visit.

Prices are reasonable. Diners expecting to shell out the price of a top-class meal in London, will be surprised to find they can fork out just £21 for a three-course set menu. Expect accessible, brasserie-style eating with great value – but with added glitz and glamour.

With such glamour on every level, it's important that the staff provide service that sizzles. And, happily, they do. The venue offers an all-encompassing menu, serving British classics from dawn until dusk, including breakfast, elevenses, weekend brunch, lunch, afternoon tea, light snacks, dinner and cocktails.

Catch it if you can – the rare sesame-coated tuna

Convivial dining – in beautiful surroundings

My partner and I ate on the second floor, taking a quiet corner seat where we had a view across part of the city and the rest of the dining area. It was stunning. As, indeed, was the food. She started with a tempura prawn number. It was delightful.

My starter was equally accomplished and offered dizzying flavour. A warm crispy duck salad.

Our mains were equally accomplished. She ate a whole grilled lobster with garlic and parsley butter, watercress and thick cut chips. My main was another classic; a seared Yellowfin tuna salad.

We skipped dessert. Though the classic selection featuring crème brûlée and apple tart fine all read well, we'd got a date with a rock star on the other side of town and didn't want to be late. The Ivy did, however, do more than enough to persuade us to return. Classic dishes, plenty of choice, good skills from the kitchen, engaging service and decent prices were duly noted – though, in truth, it's the venue itself that has star quality.

The Ivy, in London, is one of Britain's great gastronomic institutions and looking to replicate the Covent Garden joint in Birmingham was no easy task. The original has a near 100-year history and welcomed such guests as Sir Laurence Olivier and Sir John Gielgud, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Madonna, David and Victoria Beckham, Angelina Jolie, Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian McKellen and James McAvoy.

The Birmingham one might not feature a cast quite so starry. Nonetheless, those behind the impressive launch can tick the box reading: Mission Accomplished. For The Ivy Birmingham is hands down the best new launch in the city in recent years. ANDY RICHARDSON

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- Return coach travel
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- En-route visit to Chester

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Christmas Spectacular

Departing Friday 16 Nov
From Cannock

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- Return coach travel
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- Entrance to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular
- Entertainment every night
- Excursion to Norwich

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Well-presented family home is ideally located

A very well-presented and exceptionally spacious four-bedroomed detached family residence, Pendle House, 13 Sandy Lane, Cannock, is for sale through Flint & Co at £525,000.

It is ideally located in the popular and prestigious area of Shoal Hill.

Featuring multiple reception areas with four double bedrooms, this property is a classy retreat for larger families, and truly needs to be viewed to be fully appreciated.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, grand entrance hallway, sitting room, guest WC, breakfast kitchen/diner, laundry room, dining room, conservatory, lounge, four bedrooms and an en-suite bathroom, along with a family bathroom with a separate walk-in shower.

The house further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking, a double garage, along with front, rear and side gardens.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Being hugely deceptive from first glance of the exterior, there is far more internally that meets the eye, and we would strongly recommend anyone looking for an elegant home within an illustrious location to view at their earliest opportunity."

On the first floor is a galleried landing with French doors opening to a balcony. The master bedroom has a range of built-in wardrobes and a fully tiled en-suite shower room.

The family bathroom has a re-fitted suite comprises including a corner bath and a shower cubicle.

Outside to the front of the property there is a block paved driveway providing ample off road parking leading to the detached double garage.

There is a well stocked and well manicured rear garden with lawn, display borders, flowers and shrubs and a paved patio seating area.

CANNOCK £525,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Flint & Co Estate Agents
TEL: 01543 624400
EMAIL: info@flintandco.com

KEY FEATURES

- Spacious detached
- Family residence
- Prestigious area
- 4 bedrooms
- Multiple reception areas

He's sold

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- **Free valuation**
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- **Registered house hunters**
- **Solid marketing advice to help you sell fast**

If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

Publishers of Express & Star and Shropshire Star

MNA Media

Spacious three-bedroom family home in sought-after area

In the sought-after area of Walton-On-The-Hill, this deceptively spacious three-bedroomed property in Willow Close is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £246,250 with no chain.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL
£246,250 >>>

In an excellent school catchment area, this home includes a P-shaped conservatory. Its accommodation briefly also comprises an entrance hallway, an enviable-sized lounge and a kitchen with an integral door leading into the tandem garage.

To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Outside the property has an enclosed rear garden, and a driveway to the front. The lounge has a brick feature fireplace with a gas fire.

The conservatory has a ceiling light with a fan. The kitchen features a range of range of wall, floor and draw units with roll top work surfaces over and incorporates a one and a half bowl sink and mixer tap and complemented with splash-back tiling.

Contact Webbs on 01543 468846.

PROPERTY AUCTION

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Photography of typical Kier showhome interiors. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Available on selected plots subject to terms and conditions. **Help to buy available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

Charming dormer bungalow enjoys delightful plot

New to the property market, this charming two-bedroomed semi-detached dormer bungalow in High Street, Rugeley, comes with additional loft space.

It is for sale through JR Properties at £239,995.

Well worthy of an internal inspection, in order to appreciate just how much it has to offer, the property is positioned on a delightful plot with a large rear garden. The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, snug/ bedroom one, bedroom two, bathroom, kitchen, boot room, loft space (currently used as master bedroom), garage and garden.

RUGELEY
£239,995

For further information, or to book a viewing, contact JR Properties on 01889 577731.

West Midlands Estates Group
Residential & Commercial Development Consultants

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House To Let: Town Centre Hednesford—two bedroomed semi-detached house with central heating and a car parking space. Ideal for station and amenities.
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Rent: £90 per week

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westmidlandsestates@tiscali.co.uk

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SHOAL HILL
SANDY LANE

- A spacious 4 bedroom detached
- 4 reception rooms
- Kitchen, utility room
- Conservatory, guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Family bathroom
- Gardens front and rear
- Double garage
- Awaiting EPC rating

£525,000

HEDNESFORD
BROMLEY CLOSE

- A modern three bedroom semi detached
- Gas central hweating and double glazing
- Lounge, Refitted kitchen/diner
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Two further bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Garden front and rear
- Driveway
- EPC rating C

£164,950

HUNTINGTON
BADGER CLOSE

- A spacious three bedroom detached
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Gargae and parking
- EPC rating D

£225,000

HEDNESFORD
GREENHEATH ROAD

- Fully renovated three bed
- Two reception rooms
- Breakfast kitchen with dining
- Utility/Guest WC
- Family bathroom
- En-suite Shower room
- Driveway, garage
- Awaiting EPC rating

£224,500

HEDNESFORD
STAFFORD LANE

- A spacious two bedroom semi detached
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining area
- Kitchen, two bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Gardens front and rear
- Garage
- Driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£149,950

HEATH HAYES
STRAUSS DRIVE

- A spacious four bedroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen, dining room
- Utility, guest cloakroom
- Master with ensuite
- Shower room
- Garden to rear, driveway
- EPC rating C

£220,000 offers in excess of

CANNOCK
ST AIDANS ROAD

- A two bedroom semi detached house
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, refitted kitchen/diner
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Garden to front
- Corner plot
- Enclosed rear garden
- Awaiting EPC rating

£124,950

CANNOCK
NEWHALL STREET

- A two bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen and guest cloakroom
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Good sized rear garden
- EPC rating E

£139,950

CANNOCK
MORETON STREET

- A two bedroom detached bungalow
- Central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, shower room
- Two bedrooms
- Good sized rear garden
- In need of modernisation
- Awaiting EPC rating

£149,950

CANNOCK
MANOR AVENUE

- Spacious three bedroom detached
- Hallway, Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility room, cloakroom
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Awaiting EPC rating

£242,000

HEATH HAYES
DENBURY CLOSE

- A three bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, refitted kitchen/diner
- Three bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden
- Tandem garage
- Driveway
- EPC rating D

£209,950

CANNOCK
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

- Two bedroom Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Off road parking, gargae
- Town centre location
- Rear Garden
- EPC rating E

£135,000

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Top Floor Apartment
Local Parking to Rear
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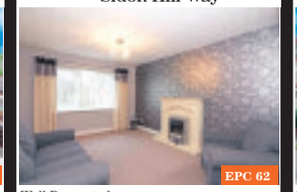
£400 pcm

Heath Hayes
Sidon Hill Way



Well Presented
Modern Apartment
Top Floor
Modern Kitchen
Double Bedroom
Refitted Bathroom
Allocated & Visitor Parking

£450 pcm

Cannock
Hednesford Road

Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
New Central Heating System
New Kitchen
Newly Fitted Bathroom
Parking to Rear
Decorated Through-out
Walking Distance to Town Centre

£525 pcm

Heath Hayes
Deavall Way

Two Bedroom Property
Popular Residential Location
Decorated throughout
Modern Kitchen
Off Road Parking
Spacious Rear Garden

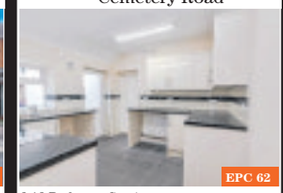
£550 pcm

Cannock
Fremantle Drive

3 Bed Mid Terraced
Good Local Schooling
3 Good Sized Bedrooms
Enclosed Rear Garden
Off Road Parking
Popular Location
Available 1st June 2018

£650 pcm

Cannock
Cemetery Road



2 / 3 Bedroom Semi
Fully Refurbished Interior
New Bathroom
New Ktichen
New Central Heating System
Communal Rear Court Yard
Available Now

£575 pcm

Heath Hayes
Stafford Road

3 Bed End Terraced
Good Local Schools
Lounge, Dining Room
Hallway, Kitchen
Family Bathroom
Rear Garden

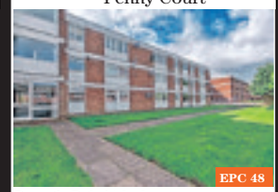
£650 pcm

Cheslyn Hay
Station Street

LET
Subject To Contract
Similar Required

£500 pcm

Great Wyrley
Penny Court



Recently Refurbished
Well Presented
Popular Residential Location
Two Bedrooms
Large Bathroom
Available Now

£500 pcm

Huntington
Progress Grove

LET
Subject To Contract
Similar Required

£650 pcm

Hednesford
High Mount Street

LET
Subject To Contract
Similar Required

£595 pcm

Heath Hayes
Cleeton Street

LET
Subject To Contract
Similar Required

£725 pcm

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PROPERTY

Immaculately presented four-bed detached

This immaculately presented four-bedroomed detached house in Highfields Road, Chasetown, Burntwood, is for sale through Lovett & Co at £499,950.

The property has been finished to an extremely high standard throughout and has generous living spaces, a large rear garden, a double garage and driveway with parking for several vehicles.

The property is well placed to take full advantage of local shopping facilities, together with a range of further facilities including a doctors' surgery, a superstore, good local schooling, a library and excellent leisure facilities.

CHASETOWN
£499,950

Commuter benefits include the A5, A38 and the M6 toll Road linking the Midlands Motorway network, and there are both Cross and Inter City railway lines available from Lichfield Cathedral City with its tourist links and Garrick Theatre, being approximately four miles away.

The property is set over two floors. On the ground floor is a reception hallway, lounge, open plan breakfast kitchen, dining room, conservatory, utility, office and a guest W/C.

On the first floor are four double bedrooms with an en-suite to the master and a family bathroom.

Contact Lovett & Co on 01543 889410.

Property with landscaped gardens is perfect for family

This three-bedroomed detached property in Delafield Way, Etchinghill, is perfect for family life.

It is for sale through Chase Owl estate agents at £199,950.

It has an entrance hall with stairs off, a lounge with a wooden feature fire surround with an inset electric fire on a marble hearth, a highly attractive re-fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of solid oak wall and base-mounted units with work surfaces over, incorporating inset stainless steel bowl sink with drainer, mixer tap and tiled splash back.

ETCHINGHILL
£199,950

There is also a built-in double electric oven with a gas hob and an extractor hood over, plus an integrated fridge/freezer and washer/dryer. It also has a designer radiator, granite floor tiles, a larder cupboard and French doors leading to the rear garden. Add to this three bedrooms – with bedroom one having wardrobes, and a re-fitted bathroom with a white suite including a P-shaped bath with a shower over and screen, vanity hand wash basin and WC.

The landscaped rear garden has a paved patio, lawn and steps leading to a second paved area with large shed.

Contact Chase Owl on 01889 358172.

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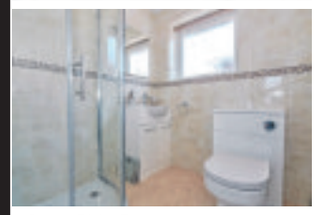
CHESLYN HAY
KESTREL WAY



- Lounge Dining Room
- Two Storey Extended
- Conservatory
- Re Fitted Kitchen
- Large Utility Room
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Guest W.C.
- Re Fitted Shower Room

£235,000

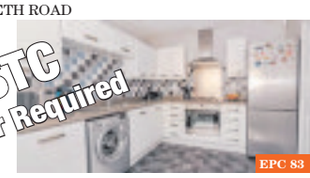
NEW

GREAT WYRLEY
POOL VIEW

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge Diner
- Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Refitted Wet Room
- Tandem Double Garage
- Summer House
- Viewing Essential

£230,000

CANNOCK
ELIZABETH ROAD



- Modern New Build Property
- Well Presented Throughout
- Gues W.C.
- Lounge, Diner
- Breakfast Kitcen
- Landscape Garden
- Viewing Essential
-

£140,000

CANNOCK
CHALFORNT COURT WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

- First Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge Diner
- Modern Kitchen
- Communal Gardens
- Viewing Essential
-
-

£95,000

NEW

CANNOCK
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

- Two Double Bedroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Refitted Kitchen
- Parking and Garage To Rear
- First Floor Bathroom
- Guest WC
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Town Centre Location

£135,000

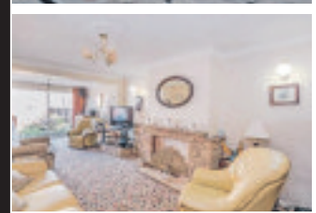
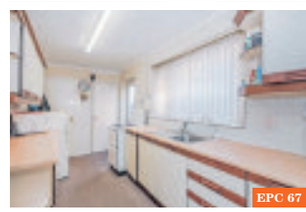
HEDNESFORD
PENDLE HILL

- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Utility ROom
- Ground Floor Shower
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Landscape Gardens

£200,000

NEW

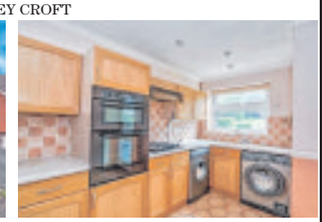
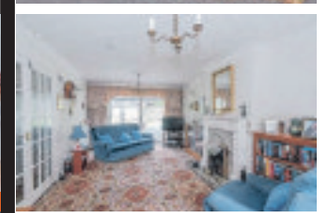
CANNOCK
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

- Entrance Porch
- Hallway,Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Garden
- Driveway And Garage

£160,000

CANNOCK
STONEY CROFT

- No Chain
- Two Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Large Lounge
- Garden/Sun Room
- Detached Garage
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Viewing Essential

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Burntwood 01543 686444
1 Lichfield Road, Burntwood WS7 0HQ

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Burntwood Office - £475,000

LICHFIELD, TRENT VALLEY ROAD

- Extended detached family home
- Prime Lichfield city location
- Spacious breakfast kitchen
- Two receptions, superb conservatory

6 | 2 | D

Burntwood Office - £430,000

CHASE TERRACE, RUGELEY ROAD

- Executive style detached house
- Tastefully extended & re-decorated
- Highly desirable location
- Gated driveway parking

4 | 2 | C

Burntwood Office - £275,000

LICHFIELD, NORWICH CLOSE

- Superbly Renovated Semi Detached
- Stylish Contemporary Interiors
- Beautiful Full Width Dining Kitchen
- No Upward Chain

3 | 1 | D

Burntwood Office - £265,000

BURNTWOOD, ST STEPHENS ROAD

- Extended link-detached family home
- Popular residential location
- Two spacious reception rooms
- Ample driveway, tandem garage

3 | 2 | E

Great Wyrley Office - £250,000

CHESLYN HAY, BERWYN GROVE

- Detached bungalow
- Corner plot in popular Cul-de-Sac
- Neatly presented throughout
- No onward chain

2 | 1 | D

Great Wyrley Office - £235,000

CHESLYN HAY, GRASSMERE COURT

- Immaculate detached residence
- Pleasant Cul-de-Sac location
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Driveway & detached garage

3 | 1

Great Wyrley Office - £229,950

CHESLYN HAY, BERWYN GROVE

- Detached bungalow
- Popular Cul-de-Sac location
- Driveway & detached garage
- No onward chain

2 | 1 | D

Great Wyrley Office - £200,000

GREAT WYRLEY, MANOR AVENUE

- Extended semi-detached house
- Popular residential location
- Off road parking
- Viewing highly recommended

3 | 1 | D

Burntwood Office - Offers Over £199,950

NORTON CANES, HUSSEY ROAD

- Fully renovated link detached
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Extensive block paved drive
- Attractive front & rear gardens

3 | 1

Great Wyrley Office - £190,000

CHESLYN HAY, ROSEMARY AVENUE

- Well presented link-semi-detached
- Popular residential location
- Three / four bedrooms
- Driveway parking & garage

4 | 1

Great Wyrley Office - £189,950

GREAT WYRLEY, WALSALL ROAD

- Exquisite semi-detached residence
- Close to amenities & transport links
- Ample off-road parking & garage
- No onward chain

2 | 1

Burntwood Office - £130,000

CHASE TERRACE, CANNOCK ROAD

- Charming cottage style semi
- Convenient Chase Terrace location
- Expansive private rear garden
- Ideal first time / investor purchase

3 | 1 | F

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UNION STREET, BRIDGTOWN

- 2Bed GFF
- Lounge/Diner
- En suite
- GCH/DG
- Off Road Parking
- Energy Rating C
- No DSS/Pets

£525 pcm

MOUNT STREET, HEDNESFORD

- Two Bed End Terrance
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Dining Room
- GCH/ DG
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- NO DSS/ PETS

£575 pcm

ALLPORT STREET, CANNOCK

- Three Bed Mid
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Bathroom
- GCH, Garden
- Parking to Rear
- Energy Rating D
- NO DSS/PETS

£580 pcm

LEES CLOSE, BRERETON

- 3Bed Semi
- Lounge/Diner
- DG/GCH
- Garage
- Gardens
- EPC Rating D
- No DSS/PETS

£625 pcm

LAKESIDE BOULEVARD, CANNOCK

- 3 Bed Mid
- Hall, Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Guest WC
- Bathroom, GCH & DG
- Gardens & Garage
- Energy Rating C
- No DSS/PETS

£750 pcm

OLD HEDNESFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

- A Fully Refurbished Detached Family Residence.
- Reception Hall, Guest WC, Lounge
- Impressive Kitchen/Diner, Utility
- Spacious Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Four Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Integral Garage, Detached Garage, Driveway, Front, Side & Rear Gardens

£349,950

LITTLEWORTH ROAD, HEDNESFORD

- A Unique and Individual Detached Bungalow with Potential Annex
- Reception Hall, Spacious Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory
- Dining Room, Three Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom, Shower Room
- Additional Sitting Room, Detached Garage

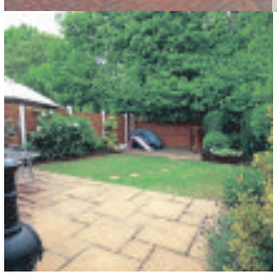
£295,000

ROWAN CLOSE, HUNTINGTON

- A Modern Extremeley Well Presented Four Bedroom Detached Family Home.
- Reception Hall, Guest WC
- Family Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite & Family Bathroom
- Garage, Driveway
- Landscaped Rear Garden

OIEO £235,000

SAPPHIRE DRIVE, HEATH HAYES



- An Immaculately Presented Three Bedroom Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Kitchen
- Utility, Guest WC
- Family Lounge, Generous Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Ample Off Road Parking

£215,000

RAWNSLEY ROAD ,HEDNESFORD

- Viewing Highly Recommended
- Reception Hall, Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen, Diner, Bathroom
- Conservatory, Two DOUBLE bedrooms
- Study, Rear Gardens
- Detached Garage & Ample Driveway

OIRO £210,000

WALSALL ROAD, CHURCHBRIDGE

- An Extremely Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Reception Hall/ Dining Room, Lounge
- Modern Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Front and Delightful Rear Gardens
- Garage and Driveway

£210,000

PREECE DRIVE, HEDNESFORD

- A Modern Extremely Well Presented Three Bedroom Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Guest WC
- Family Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Three Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage, Driveway
- Rear Garden

£225,000

CHURCH ROAD, NORTON CANES

- Well Presented Detached Family Home
- Family Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Well Stocked Rear Garden With Open Views
- Driveway & Garage

OIRO £199,950

WRENS CROFT, HEATH HAYES

- A Well Presented Semi Detached House
- Popular Residential Location Overlooking Nature Reserve
- Guest WC, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Three Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Family Bathroom
- Two Parking Spaces
- Rear Garden

OIRO £189,950

GRATLEY CROFT, HUNTINGTON

- An Immaculately Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached House with Rear Views over Cannock Chase.
- Spacious Family Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Front & Beautiful Rear Gardens
- Carport & Ample Off Road Parking

O.I.R.O £165,000

STATION STREET, CHESLYN HAY

- A Traditional Two Bedroom End Terraced House
- D/G, Gas Connected to Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

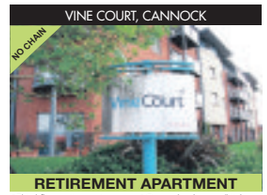
£115,000

VAN GOGH CLOSE, HEATH HAYES

- A One Bed First Floor Maisonette situated in a Popular Residential Location
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Double Bedroom with Built in Wardrobes
- Bathroom
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Communal Gardens

£79,950

VINE COURT, CANNOCK



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NEW

Flaxley Road, Rugeley

A Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Lounges
- Utility & Kitchen
- Family Bathroom & Ground Floor W.C
- Enclosed Front & Rear Gardens

£115,000

Timbertops The Pingle Slitting Mill Rugeley

A Three/Four Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow

- Occupying pprox. quarter of an a acre plot
- Oil fuelled central heating
- Large Driveway
- Gardens with spectacular views
- NO CHAIN

£385,000

Burnthill Lane Rugeley

A Four Bedroom Executive Detached House

- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Conservatory
- Dining Room
- Integral Garage

Offers over £239,950

REDUCED

Glovers Hill Court, Brereton

A 1 Bedroom 1st Floor Coach House Apartment

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Private Ground Floor Entrance Hall
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Master Bedroom & Bathroom
- Undercover Parking for 2 Vehicles

£105,000

Thinking of Selling?

Our Fee £849

OFFER ACCEPTED

Ti-Arwil, Keystone Lane, Rugeley

Trtaditional 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House

- Part Double Glazed
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens & Driveway Parking
- Single Car Garage & Outside W.C

£159,500

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- Do you live in a leasehold property?
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- Has your landlord refused to sell, been unhelpful, or quoted an outrageous figure?

Southwells have now acted for a number of clients in the purchase of their freeholds and have been able to achieve significant reductions in all cases.

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TO LET

Sheep Fair, Rugeley

A 1 Bedroom 2nd Floor Flat

- Town Centre Location
- Lounge
- Kitchenette
- Bedroom with built in wardrobe
- Bathroom

£400 PCM

TO LET

Fernwood Drive, Rugeley

A Three Bedroom

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen & Family Bathroom
- Garage
- Gardens Fron & Rear

£595 PCM

TO LET

Ravenslea Road, Brereton

A Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Enclosed Front & Rear Gardens
- Gated Parking to Rear

£575 PCM

APPLICATION RECEIVED

Watson Close, Rugeley

A 3 Bedroom semi-detached House

- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- 3 Bedrooms
- Kitchen, Bathroom
- Front and rear enclosed gardens

£595 PCM

Attention Landlords

We have Tenants Waiting to Rent Your Property

APPLICATION RECEIVED

Joseph Dix Drive

A Three Bedroom Detached House

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge & Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- 3 Bedrooms
- Enclosed Rear Garden

£650 PCM

OFT | Home of Property

www.phillipsouthwellestatesltd.co.uk
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Modern new build house in show home condition

A modern new build property in Ash Close, Norton Canes, Cannock, is presented to show home standard throughout.

In a quiet cul-de-sac location and having an open view to the front, it is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £220,000.

In brief, the property consists of an entrance hallway with a storage cupboard, a guest WC, a modern

CANNOCK
£220,000

well-equipped kitchen/diner, a spacious lounge with French doors opening out to the garden.

To the first floor there are three bedrooms, the master having an en-suite, and a three-piece family bathroom completes the first floor.

Outside the enclosed rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with a paved patio seating area. The single garage has an up and over door to the front and a door to the side.

The kitchen/diner has a range of soft close wall, floor and drawer units with roll top work surfaces.

Contact Webbs on 01543 468846.

Well-presented four-bedroomed detached property

An impressive detached residence in Station Road, Great Wyrley, lies in a popular residential location and has immaculate, contemporary interiors.

It is for sale through Paul Carr Estate Agents at offers in excess of £350,000.

Having a good-sized garden and driveway parking, its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, entrance hallway, a lounge,

GREAT WYRLEY
£350,000

dining room, kitchen, utility room, a ground floor bedroom, en-suite shower room, a guest WC, four first floor bedrooms, a bathroom and a separate WC.

Ideally located for local amenities, schools and transport links, this impressive detached residence would ideally suit a growing family and internal viewing is highly recommended. The accommodation includes a welcoming hallway with a guest WC off and engineered wood flooring which continues through to the light and spacious lounge. This has an open fireplace and double doors leading in to the separate dining room.

Call Paul Carr on 01922 701001.

Rugeley
01889 358689

Jayman

Cannock
01543 505566

Lambourne Close, Great Wyrley

Semi Deatched Dormer Bungalow
Four Bedrooms
Lounge. Dining Room
Conservatory
Garage
EPC D

Offers Around £240,000

Coulthwaite Way, Rugeley

Offers Over £70,000

One Bedroom Apartment	Bathroom
Lounge	Off Road Parking
Kitchen/Diner	EPC D

New Penkridge Road, Cannock

Offers Around £94,950

One Bedroom Apartment	Bathroom
Lounge / Diner	Ideal First Time Buyer Property
Kitchen	Awaiting EPC

Cherry Close, Burntwood

Offers Over £137,500

Semi Detached Property	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Lounge	EPC C

Giles Road, Lichfield

Offers Over £220,000

Link Detached Property	Kitchen
Three Bedrooms	Detached Garage
Lounge	EPCC

Wood Lane, Hednesford

Detached Property
Four Bedrooms
Dining Room, Kitchen
Utility
Garage
Awaiting EPC

Offers Around £260,000

Newlands Lane, Cannock

Detached Property
Three Bedrooms
Conservatory
En Suite
Garage
EPC D

Offers Around £270,000

Ruston Road, Burntwood

Offers Around £220,000

Semi Detached Property	Rear Garden
Three Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Two Bathrooms	EPC B

Edward Street, Cannock

oFFERS aROUND £220,000

Detached Property	Conservatory
Three Bedrooms	Integral Garage
Lounge	EPC C

Station Road, Hednesford

Offers Around £235,000

Deatched Property	Rear Garden
Four Bedrooms	NO CHAIN
Lounge Area	EPC E

St Christopher Close, Hednesford

Offers Around £280,000

Detached Property	Conservatory, Utility Room
Four Bedrooms	Rear Garden
Lounge, Dining Room	Awaiting EPC

Cannock Wood Street, Cannock

Semi Detached Property
Four Bedrooms
Lounge
Kitchen
Garage
Awaiting EPC

Offers Around £280,000

Poplar Lane, Cannock

Detached Property
Five Bedrooms
Three Bathrooms
Breakfast Kitchen & Utility Room
Good Sized Rear Garden
EPC D

Offers Around £375,000

Shugborough Way, Cannock

Offers Around £280,000

Detached Property	Conservatory
Four Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Lounge	EPC D

Uttoxeter Road, Rugeley

Offers Around £475,000

Detached Property	Bespoke Hot TuB Room
Four / Five Bedrooms	Garage
Cinema / Games Room	EPC B

Free Valuations

Covering: Cannock, Hednesford, Rugeley, Lichfield, Burntwood, Tamworth and Brownhills

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MIDLANDS LETTINGS AGENCY of the YEAR 2013

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THE TIMES

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The Hollies
CHESLYN HAY

Outstanding six bedroom detached family home / Set on an exclusive private cul-de-sac / Sought after village of Cheslyn Hay / Finished to a show home standard throughout / Six large well proportioned

£450,000

Littleworth Road
RAWNSLEY

Five bedroom detached family home / NO UPWARD CHAIN / Breakfast kitchen / Drive for more than ten vehicles / Enclosed rear garden / EPC: C

Offers in Excess of £400,000

Meriden Close
CANNOCK

Outstanding four bedroom detached family home / Overlooking quiet green to the front / Tastefully decorated & finished to high standard throughout / Generous living spaces throughout / Superb

£375,000

Dartmouth Road
CANNOCK

Immaculately presented four bedroom semi detached house / Contemporary design & high specification finish throughout / Stunning open plan ground floor layout / Driveway for three vehicles

£325,000

Kingscroft
WIMBLEBURY

Executive four bedroom detached family home / Set on large end plot within quiet & sought after cul-de-sac / Large private rear garden / Driveway with parking for several vehicles / Double garage currently

£320,000

Albany Drive
WIMBLEBURY

Immaculately presented executive detached family home / Four double bedrooms / Set back & raised from the road on good sized plot down quiet cul-de-sac / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation

£305,000

Wenlock View
HEDNESFORD

Executive four bedroom detached family home / Set on small private development / Stunning open plan kitchen-diner / Spacious living room / High spec kitchen / En-suite plus guest WC

£290,000

Slitting Mill Road
ETCHING HILL

Immaculately presented five bedroom family home / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Set over three storys / Delightful rural area of Slitting Mill / Stunning views of the surrounding countryside

£260,000

Bramwell Drive
HEDNESFORD

Outstanding & immaculately presented four bedroom town house / Occupying a large corner plot / High spec finish throughout / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Two en-suites

Offers in Excess of £260,000

Hill Street
NORTON CANES

Immaculate three bedroom semi detached dormer bungalow / Set over floors / Situated in quiet cul-de-sac / Open plan kitchen diner / Stunning orangery to rear / Substantial first floor converted dormer

£250,000

Station Road
GREAT WYRLEY

Well presented three bedroom 1920's style property / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom suite / Well proportioned bedrooms / Good sized private rear garden

£250,000

Lichfield Road
CANNOCK

Very spacious four bedroom detached house / Open plan dining kitchen / Large open reception hall / Good sized private rear garden / Garage and driveway with ample parking

£240,000

Stephenson Way
HEDNESFORD

Three bedroom detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Spacious lounge-diner / Good sized private rear garden / Garage and driveway for four cars

Offers in Excess of £239,950

Old Fallow Road
CANNOCK

Stunning four bedroom Victorian style character property / Lovingly restored and superbly maintained / Period features charm & character throughout / no onward chain / Driveway for 3 cars / 4 Double

Offers in the Region Of £235,000

Juniper Close
HAZEL SLADE

Well presented three bedroom detached family home / Highly desirable semi rural area / Spacious lounge & open plan kitchen-diner / Charming good sized private rear garden / Integral garage

Offers in Excess of £220,000

Hill Street
HEDNESFORD

Outstanding four/five semi detached house / Superb contemporary open plan layout on the ground floor / Potential ground floor annexe with wheelchair access / large garden / Garage and drive

£210,000

Lime Pit Lane
CANNOCK

Immaculately presented and superbly maintained three bedroom detached house / Set on a corner plot within a modern sought after development /

Offers in the Region Of £199,995

Pye Green Road
CANNOCK

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Superb contemporary open plan layout on the ground floor / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Low maintenance private rear garden / Low

£195,000

View Street
HEDNESFORD

Deceptively spacious two bedroom detached bungalow / Set on good sized plot / Charming mature private rear garden / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Delightful rear sun room

£190,000

Pye Green Road
CANNOCK

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Built in popular 1930's style / Set on good sized plot & recently refurbished throughout / Superb spacious open plan dining kitchen

£180,000

Hednesford Road
HEATH HAYES

Extremely spacious three bedroom detached character property / Modern method of auction / Set on a large plot / Ideal for investors / Large rear garden stretching over 45 metres

£170,000

Oakleigh Drive
BRERETON

Well presented two bedroom semi detached house / Set within quiet cul-de-sac location / Far reaching views of the countryside / Superb contemporary split level layout / Good sized tiered private rear garden

£160,000

Huntington Terrace Road
CANNOCK

1930's style three semi detached house / Spacious lounge & dining room / Modern kitchen / Driveway / Good sized rear garden

Offers in Excess of £150,000

Hussey Road
NORTON CANES

Well presented two bedroom semi detached house / Good sized lounge / Modern fitted open plan dining kitchen / Charming private rear garden / Driveway for two vehicles

Offers in the Region Of £140,000

Gorsemoor Road
HEATH HAYES

Two bedroom traditional semi detached house / Good sized plot with a large charming rear garden / Driveway with ample off road parking / Sought after location / Spacious reception rooms and bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £130,000

Bryans Way
WIMBLEBURY

Two bedroom semi detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Rural views to rear / Spacious lounge and kitchen-diner / Private rear garden / Driveway for 2 cars

Offers in Excess of £125,000

Heath Way
HEATH HAYES

Two bedroom first floor apartment / NO ONWARD CHAIN / New carpet and freshly decorated throughout / Allocated & visitor parking / New bathroom

£110,000

Nelson Drive
WIMBLEBURY

one bedroom self contained ground floor maisonette / Quiet cul-de-sac / Open plan living area / Shower room / Ideal for first time buyers and investors

£75,000

Chaffinch Close
HEDNESFORD

One bedroom self contained first floor maisonette / Quiet cul-de-sac / Modern fitted kitchen and shower room / Ideal for first time buyer or investors

£65,000

Apple Walk
HEATH HAYES

One bedroom ground floor apartment / Ideal for first time buyers and investors / Good sized open plan lounge-diner / Allocated parking plus visitor spaces

Offers in Excess of £65,000

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HEATH HAYES
SALISBURY DRIVE

Unfurnished	4 Bedrooms
Detached House	Bathroom & En Suite
Lounge	GCH & DG
Dining Room	Garage
Kitchen	Front & Rear Garden
Utility	EPC Rating E

£795 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
STAGBOROUGH WAY

Semi Detached	Gas Central Heating
Bungalow	Double Glazing
Lounge	Front & Rear Garden
Kitchen	Garage
2 Bedrooms	Driveway
Bathroom	EPC Rating D

£650 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HUNTINGTON
REDWING DRIVE

Unfurnished	Bathroom
Semi Detached	GCH & DG
House	Front and Rear
Lounge	Garden
Kitchen	Conservatory
3 Bedrooms	EPC Rating D

£650 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HUNTINGTON
PEAR TREE CLOSE

Unfurnished	Gas Central Heating
Detached Bungalow	Double Glazing
Lounge	Rear Garden
Kitchen	Driveway
2 Bedrooms	EPC Rating C
Bathroom	

£625 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

BRIDGTOWN
ROMAN COURT A5

Unfurnished	Electric Heating
Executive Apartments	Double Glazing
Open Plan Lounge	Parking
Kitchen	Awaiting EPC
2 Bedrooms	
Bathroom	

£625 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
HOLT CRESCENT

Town House	Double Glazing
Lounge	Garden
Kitchen Diner	Parking
3 Bedrooms	EPC Rating C
New Bathroom	
Gas Central Heating	

£595 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CANNOCK
FOXES RAKE

Unfurnished	Gas Central Heating
Town House	Double Glazing
Lounge	Rear Garden
Kitchen	Parking
3 Bedrooms	EPC Rating C
Bathroom	

£595 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CANNOCK
BEECH TREE COURT

Unfurnished	Gas Central Heating
First Floor Flat	Double Glazing
Lounge	Parking
Kitchen	EPC Rating C
2 Bedrooms	
Bathroom	

£525 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
CANNOCK ROAD

Unfurnished	Gas Central Heating
First Floor Flat	Double Glazing
Lounge	Parking
Kitchen	EPC Rating C
2 Bedrooms	
Bathroom	

£495 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CANNOCK
KENILWORTH COURT

Unfurnished	Electric Heating
First Floor Flat	Double Glazing
Lounge	Parking
Kitchen	EPC Rating D
1 Bedroom	
Bathroom	

£450 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

NORTON CANES
NORTON TERRACE

Unfurnished	Storage Cupboard
Town House	Gas Central Heating
Lounge	Double Glazing
Kitchen Diner	Parking
1 Bedroom	EPC Rating C
Bathroom	

£425 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

PYE GREEN
PLANTATION ROAD

Unfurnished	Gas Central Heating
First Floor Flat	Rear Garden
Lounge	Parking
Kitchen	EPC Rating C
1 Bedroom	
Bathroom	

£400 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

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The Property Ombudsman

Cactus stands out in any company

By Graham Breeze

Citroën has unveiled an impressive new player in the C-Segment hatchback division – and believe me C4 Cactus is a huge improvement on the previous model which did nothing to get my taste buds going.

Majoring on comfort and personality the new C4 Cactus is now available in the UK with a lengthy list of exterior and interior styling, engineering, technology and connectivity updates featuring two core trim levels.

If like me you weren't impressed with the "plastic" side-panel finish on the outgoing model you'll be delighted to hear it's been dispatched to the Citroën design bin and is nowhere to be seen on the new Feel and Flair trim levels revealed this week.

Prices start at £17,265 and rise to £20,895 for the top of the range option and you will be staggered by the level of ride comfort with C4 Cactus benefitting from the European premier of Citroën's brand new suspension system with progressive hydraulic cushions and easily the most comfortable seating in the sector.

The new suspension system is a European first for Citroën, improving the ride comfort without having any effect on handling, while support and height adjustable seats are given the full Citroën treatment for additional comfort. Improved sound conditioning is also very evident.

Building on previous successes the new model boasts an extended range of external personalisation options, with nine body colours – including a new Emerald Blue metallic paint and four colour packs, giving a total of 31 possible combinations.

And you can't help but be impressed with the range of technologies and engines with 12 driver assistance systems now on offer, including Active Safety Brake, Grip Control and Lane Departure Warning.

There are also three connectivity technologies; Citroën Connect Nav, Citroën Connect Box with the brand's Emergency & Assistance system and Mirror Screen functionality.

Technology

All the segment-essential technologies are packed in with driving assistance systems such as: Active Safety Brake; Speed Limit Recognition and Recommendation; Lane Departure Warning System; Coffee Break Alert (a first for me); Driver Attention Alert Blind Spot Monitoring; Park Assist; Reversing Camera; Hill Start Assist; Front Fog Lights with Cornering Function; Keyless Entry and Start and Grip Control.

The Citroën cabin is an area of acquired taste but there's no doubting how much room there is up front or for the averaged sized rear-seat passengers.

Up-front the dashboard is dominated by a 7-inch touchscreen which groups together all of the key vehicle functions, such as air conditioning, radio, telephone and a very clear sat-nav system.

New C4 Cactus range is available with three 3-cylinder PureTech petrol engines and the highly efficient BlueHDi 100 S&S diesel, as well as the latest generation EAT6 fully automatic gearbox.

Citroën expect the 110 Bluetech to be the best seller. They say manual will be the preferred option but I would advise testing the automatic version too if you are looking for comfort and easy motoring. The automatic on test was a pure joy. The 3-cylinder transverse 1200 engine produced a top speed of 117mph and 0-62mph in 9.9 seconds, has a claimed combined fuel figure of 61.4mpg and produced C02 emissions of only 105g/km – impressive in any class.

There's a lengthy list of exterior and interior styling, engineering, technology and connectivity updates featuring two core trim levels

The test car came with cruise control and speed limiter, gear efficiency indicator, ice alert, child locking doors, deadlocks, immobiliser, alarm, steering wheel controls, city camera pack and LED front and rear interior reading lights.

The basic price of the test model was £21,165 and while extras pushed the bill up to just over £23,000 this is a car which really does stand out in any company and has just improved its appeal amongst C-Segment buyers.

There are three "Feel" and four "Free" options available in both manual and automatic alternatives but I tend to agree with the Citroen suits that the 110 will be the popular choice.

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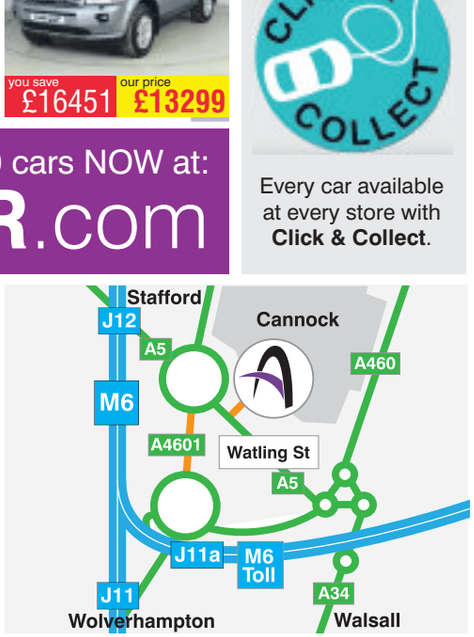

It is quite a tall car, with benefits including a higher hip height (for easier access)

From the outside, additional styling features are more subtle than flashy

New Sport model adds a new dimension to the Honda Jazz range

By John Griffiths

Honda's smallest car, the Jazz, has enjoyed a loyal following from motorists arund the world in the past 17 years – but now the company has made a conscious decision to broaden its appeal.

For the first time it gives buyers the option of a new, more powerful engine. That may appeal to younger drivers, of course, but also to the family motorist since the latest Jazz offers more cabin space than most typical compact hatchbacks, more like mid-size models.

Head and leg room in the rear are particularly generous and it has an above average 354 litres of boot space. A 'magic seat' system allows you the flexibility to juggle between passengers and luggage, with up to 1,314 litres of cargo capacity with just two people on board.

The rear seats can also be reclined to cosset your passengers, while the front seats and steering wheel have a wide range of adjustment to suit individual drivers.

The higher seating position gives better visibility

Advantage

The extra oomph will be welcome if you're carrying a family and their luggage, with the added advantage that it comes in a new, high specification Sport trim.

The new 1.5 litre engine is another Honda i-VTEC unit, well known for their smooth, free revving nature. But it endows the Sport with 130PS of power and 155Nm of torque (compared to 102Ps and 123Nm for its standard 1.3 litre stablemate).

The Sport is significantly quicker (0 to 62mph in 8.7 as opposite to 11.2 seconds) putting it in warm hatchback territory, with an equally improved 'in-gear' performance for overtaking.

Official average fuel economy is 47.9mpg – as that's a laboratory test I was pleasantly surprised by the 43mpg achieved in real-world driving. Its CO2 rating is 133g/km. The optional automatic (CVT) transmission is a little more economical than the six-speed manual in the test car.

It is quite a tall car, with benefits including a higher hip height (for easier access) and, of course, the higher seating position and better visibility which have made compact SUVs so popular.

The Sport has its own, tuned suspension set-up to reflect its increased power which works surprisingly well, balanced effective dynamics with a supple ride.

I confess I was a bit unsure of the Sport in the first few miles, as it felt very light. But in fact that characteristic which is much appreciated around town is a little misleading – on the open road it threads its way competently and without fuss through the twisty bits. Even the bumpy ones.

This relaxed competence adds to the refined, mature nature of the Sport,

The test car was a Sport Navi model with a list price of £17,765 – go for the standard Sport and you lose the Garmin satnav but save £610. That's just over £1,000 more than the top of the range 1.3 litre Jazz.

From the outside, additional styling features are more subtle than flashy: 16-inch alloys, sports bumpers, side sills, a tailgate spoiler and LED headlights.

The interior stands out not only for its space but for the high quality, soft touch materials by no means common in this class.

As is inevitable these days, the dash is dominated by a seven-inch colour touchscreen controller, handling a rage of functions as well as navigation including phone and internet connectivity and vehicle systems. Audio controls are also duplicated by buttons on the steering wheel.

Technology

There is air conditioning, electric windows and mirrors which are also heated), automatic headlights and wipers, front and rear parking sensors.

The car is also fitted with the latest safety technology, apart front front, side and curtain airbags it has ABS, stability control, hill start assist and a 'city brake' system to help avoid those all-too-common low speed shunts.

There is also a tyre pressure warning system, speed limiter linked to the traffic sign recognition system, lane departure warning and auto dipping headlights.

The model adds a new dimension to the Jazz range, in terms of performance and specification. It's particularly flexible seating, and class-leading interior space, make it highly competitive in this sector of the market.

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Astra gets Euro 6D-Temp powertrains

By James Parker

Vauxhall continues its move to Euro 6d-TEMP with two new engines joining its award-winning Astra range, a powerful 1.6-litre Turbo (200PS) petrol and a 1.6-litre CDTi (136PS) diesel unit. The strict Euro 6d-TEMP emissions standard, which includes real driving emissions measured on public roads, comes into force for new registrations in September 2019.

Producing 200PS and 300Nm, the 1.6-litre petrol engine with six-speed manual or automatic transmissions can power the Astra to a maximum speed of 146mph and achieve 0-60mph in just 7.3 seconds. Fuel economy is 43.5mpg (combined) and CO2 emissions are 151g/km. In order to reduce particulate emissions as much as possible, the 1.6-litre direct injection petrol engine features a close-coupled Gasoline Particulate Filter (GPF) for optimum regeneration (i.e. oxidisation of the particles that accumulate in the filter).

With 320Nm of torque, the first Euro 6d-TEMP diesel engine to be introduced to the Astra range is the 1.6-litre CDTi (136PS), available with either manual or automatic transmission. It achieves combined fuel economy from 64.2mpg and CO2 emissions from 116g/km.

The engine is equipped with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology for further reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions. In the SCR process, AdBlue is injected into the exhaust gas. The solution decomposes into ammonia, which is then stored on a catalyst substrate. Nitrogen oxide enters the catalyst in the exhaust gas, and is then selectively reduced to nitrogen and water.

The Astra is light, frugal and agile

Order banks are open now for 1.6-litre Turbo (200PS) petrol in both Hatch and Sports Tourer body styles. The 1.6-litre CDTi (136PS) is available to order now in Hatch with the Sports Tourer body style available soon after. Prices start from £20,595 on-the-road.

The rapid transition to Euro 6d-TEMP compliancy is part of Vauxhall's strategy to become a leader in vehicle emissions reduction. The next steps toward this goal are the introduction of four electrified models by 2020, including the next generation Corsa, which will also be available as a fully electric vehicle, and the Grandland X as the first plug-in hybrid from Vauxhall. By 2024 Vauxhall will become fully electrified, offering a hybrid or a battery electric version of every passenger car model.

The Astra, voted European Car of the Year in 2016, is one of the bestselling models in the Vauxhall portfolio. Light, frugal and agile, the Astra Hatch and Sports Tourer are built at Vauxhall's manufacturing plant in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. Despite compact exterior dimensions, occupants in the Astra enjoy particularly generous legroom – especially in the rear. The Sports Tourer can also carry up to 1,630 litres of luggage and the extensive load area is easy to access thanks to the optional power tailgate, which can be opened and shut with a simple kicking motion under the bumper.

The Astra, voted European Car of the Year in 2016, is one of the bestselling models in the Vauxhall portfolio

In addition to featuring a host of driver assistance systems such as Forward Collision Alert with Automatic Emergency Braking and Lane Departure Warning with Lane Keep Assist, the Astra is the first car in its class to be made available with full LED matrix headlamps. IntelliLux LED Matrix Lighting on the Astra consists of 16 LED segments – eight on each side of the vehicle – that automatically and constantly adapt the length and distribution of the light beam to every situation, without glare for oncoming traffic.

Equipment for the Astra also includes infotainment systems that can be operated by touch-screen, remote controls on the steering wheel and voice recognition. They additionally allow operation of suitably-equipped smartphones via the phone's voice-control system, such as Siri or Google, and they are compatible with both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Legend lives on: Aston Martin V600 is reborn

The legendary Aston Martin Vantage V600 has been reborn in the form of a customer commissioned limited run of all-new breathtakingly beautiful Aston Martin V12 Vantage V600s, inspired and influenced by the original V8 Vantage V600.

In 1998, Aston Martin offered its customers the most extreme iteration of its Vantage sportscar, the supercharged V8 Vantage V600. Delivering 600bhp, the model was one of the most powerful sports cars of its time, a car of extremes.

Unique

Fast forward 20 years and the luxury British carmaker's unique personalisation service Q by Aston Martin received a customer commission for a strictly limited run of 14 new Aston Martin V12 Vantage V600s.

Split between seven coupes and seven roadsters and dubbed the 'Triple V', this unique series of manual V12 V600s have been commissioned, designed and handcrafted without compromise.

Underpinned by the previous-generation 'VH' Vantage, the 2018 Aston Martin V12 Vantage V600 combines the modern performance of a muscle sportscar with styling, creating the ultimate Vantage.

Marek Reichman, vice president and chief creative officer of Aston Martin, said: "This is precisely why we created our 'Q by Aston Martin – Commission' service.

"Our customers can create truly bespoke sports cars by personally collaborating with myself and Aston Martin's design team. The V600 name remains a classic in Aston Martin's heritage and I'm proud to see it adorn the V12 Vantage V600 once again".

The car combines the modern performance of a sportscar with styling

The V12 Vantage V600 has commanding road presence and utilises aggressive styling cues across its full-carbon fibre exterior. Like the 90s classic, the V600 utilises a re-imagined side-strake and a bonnet that hints towards the power that lies underneath.

A unique darkened grille provides maximum air and cooling to the model's characterful V12, while the car's rear continues to point to the car's powerful nature.

An all-new carbon fibre diffuser provides the backdrop for a quad exhaust system. The external look is further distinguished by bespoke centre-lock forged and machined aluminium wheels.

The interior is marked by carbon fibre and dark anodised aluminium. The lightweight seats have an all-new perforation pattern, carbon fibre centre console and bespoke driver information dials. A hand-crafted saddle leather centre armrest provides comfort and style within ergonomic reach of the machined-from-solid gear shifter.

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Eg (4pm Thursday)

Cannock Reception will be closing at 4.30pm on a Friday.

Deaths

CANN

Maurice

Passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 13, 2018, aged 82 years.

Maurice was much loved and will be missed dearly by all of his Family and Friends

The Funeral Service will take place on Monday, June 4, 2018, at St Luke's Church, Cannock, at 1.45pm, followed by a Committal at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if so desired for Midlands Air Ambulance.

All Inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock WS11 0AH
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LONGMORE

Bill

Former Police and Crime Commissioner, West Mercia. Superintendent in Cannock, Staffordshire Police.

Beloved Husband of Ursula and much respected by his Family and Friends. Passed away peacefully at home.

Following a private Family Committal there will be a Ceremony of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in Shrewsbury Abbey Church, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury on Saturday, June 9 at 11.30am.

Family flowers only, however all donations will support the work of Cancer Research.

All inquiries please to

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Deaths

POTTS

Patricia Margaret

'Pat'

Peacefully passed away Monday, May 14, 2018, aged 93 years.

Pat was much loved and will be dearly missed by all of her Family and Friends.

Her Funeral Service will held at St Marks Church, Great Wyrley on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 10am, followed by a Burial at Cheslyn Hay Cemetery.

Flowers welcome, also donations, if so desired for the Midlands Air Ambulance.

All inquiries

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Cheslyn Hay WS6 7EG
01922 410612

One thing will always cherish, no matter what life sends, a memory of the happiness, of us for being Friends.

Love, Gill and Brian.

Acknowledgements

ADDISON

Victor Reginald

The Family of the late Victor Addison would like to thank Family and Friends for their kindness and support during our sad loss.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Royal National Institute for the Blind totalling £550.

Many thanks.

DRURY

Gail Janette

Paul and Family would like to thank all that sent cards and attended gorgeous Gail's wonderful Funeral at a packed Stafford Crematorium, giving her a beautiful send off.

£1,200 was raised for Cancer Research UK and St. Giles' Hospice.

EDWARDS

Rob

Rob's Family would like to thank everyone for their support and kindness and for joining them at St. James' the Great Church, Norton Canes on April, 27, 2018, to celebrate his life.

Thanks also to Maguire Funeral Directors, for all their care and professionalism throughout the day, also Father Neil Hibbins of St James' Church.

Donations raised £436 for the Stroke Association.

Many thanks to all.

In Memoriam

CAREY

Joan

(nee Hill)

Six years June 3, 2018

Never forgotten.

Loved always.

Husband Peter and Twin Sister Annie.

DUNNING

Trevor

June 30, 1997

In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day.

Brother Dennis and Sheila

X X X

Family ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or remembering a loved one - we're here to help.

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£5,500 ono

07786 903655

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BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury. Will appeal to retired people & couples.
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what's on

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07539 340307

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READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

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READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

TWO YOUNG CATS black and white, litter trained, free to good home.
07999 853085.

WEDNESBURY SANCTUARY
Needs a home for
BILLY AND BONNIE
black and white 8 week kittens.
JACK AND JILL
abandoned on field, black, 7 months old, spayed and vaccinated.
LUCY
black and white young cat, spayed and vaccinated.
0121 502 5027.

5 Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

Overseas Property

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7 Jobs

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8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

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2006 reg.
1984cc, 5 door hatchback.
Grey, great condition.
51,500 miles.
Only 2 previous owners.
12 months MoT.
£3,500.
01562 777748.

BARGAIN

MG6 TURBO

MAGNETTE

2011, gold colour, 81,000 miles, 6 months MoT, new clutch, paint adjustment needed.

Hence £1,900 ono

01922 410974.

PEUGEOT 307CC
2008, 63,450 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, central locking, one owner, pas, stereo, CD.
£1,950 ono.
07876 418827.

VOLVO S40 1.6 DRIVe
A rare opportunity,
(as new condition) very low emissions, no tax needed, one owner, only 41,000 miles, full main dealer service history, alloys, leather interior, full MoT, 2012,
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£6,950. (£21,000 new)
Call now 07976 88 8820.

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A rare opportunity,
(as new condition) very low emissions, no tax needed, one owner, only 41,000 miles, full main dealer service history, alloys, leather interior, full MoT, 2012,
(Private reg) TJA 97OR
£6,950. (£21,000 new)
Call now 07976 88 8820.

Cars Under £1500

FORD MONDEO
2012, Sandust, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, diesel, Stereo, CD
£500
07405 426386.

VAUXHALL CORSA, 2006, 73,939 miles, black, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, MoT, £700 ono. 07912 573686.

Classic Cars

CLASSIC CAR

MGB GT,
1971, 71,000 miles, yellow, chrome bumpers, chrome spoked wheels. show room condition.
Reg: JUK 90K
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Cannock 07590 047305

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OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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8 Motoring

MOT's

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formula one autocentres
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10 Personals

STEVE 60
seeks female, any age, any nationality, likes days and nights out and going to church.
Cannock and Walsall areas.
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WV1 1ES.

General

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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Number Plates

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PLATE FOR SALE

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9 Local Information

Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER SECTION 34 OF LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that an application has been made to: Cannock Chase District Council By: Mandy White

For: Lea Hall Social Club Ltd
Sandy Lane, Rugeley, WS15 2LB

It is proposed to vary the existing premises licence to:

1) Amend the start time for the supply of alcohol, the provision of plays, films, indoor sporting events, boxing or wrestling entertainments, live music, recorded music, performances of dance, anything of a similar description to live music, recorded music or performances of dance to 10.00am , 7 days a week.

2) Amend the start time for hours open to the public to 8.00am, 7 days a week.

With effect from: 8 June 2018

A full version of this application can be viewed at The Licensing Unit, Cannock Chase District Council, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Representations should be made in writing within 28 days of the date of the publication of this notice, to;

The Head of Environmental Health, Cannock Chase District Council, Civic Centre, PO Box 28,Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG.
e-mail; licensingunit@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Phone 01543 462621
Fax; 01543 464489

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is not exceeding £5000.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
(AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
OLD PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council intend not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Old Penkridge Road in Cannock from its junction with B5012 Park Road to its junction with Kilmorie Road unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road.

Pedestrian access will be maintained.

An alternative route for traffic is available via Old Penkridge Road, Kilmorie Road, B5012 New Penkridge Road and vice versa. For more information,
visit: https://roadworks.org?tm=105346829.

The order will come into operation on 18 June 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 20 June 2018.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the BT duct renewal works undertaken by Stoke Civils Ltd, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change
No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Ref: 4112345; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre;
Tel: 0300 111 8000
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders
http://roadworks.org

Date: 31 May 2018

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
(AS AMENDED) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994
DIVERSION OF ALL TRAFFIC TYPES
(INC HORSES, CYCLES) AND PROHIBITION OF WAITING - IRONMAN 2018

Staffordshire County Council on 29 May 2018 made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle, horse riders or cyclists from proceeding along the roads in Staffordshire which form part of the Cycling and Running element of Ironman 2018, or waiting, loading or unloading in various lengths of road in the County Town of Stafford for the duration of the event. Documents may be examined during office hours at 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH. For details of the route and timings of the restrictions please visit https://roadworks.org/

Department for Transport

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1) (a) AND 16(2) OF THE MOTORWAYS TRAFFIC (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 1982

THE M6 TOLL MOTORWAY (JUNCTION T7 TO M6 JUNCTION 11a) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the M6 Toll Motorway, in the County of Staffordshire, to allow resurfacing, safety fence repairs, drainage works, street lighting works and structural maintenance works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close, at different times, –

(a) the northbound carriageway of the M6 Toll from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction T7 to its junction with the M6 (M6 Junction 11a);

(b) any slip road or link road leading to or from the northbound or southbound carriageways of the M6 Toll at Junctions T7 and T8;

(c) any slip road leading to or from the northbound or southbound carriageways of the M6 Toll, to or from Norton Canes Motorway Services Area; and

(d) various lanes of the northbound carriageway of the M6 Toll from a point 600 metres south of the centreline of Streetway Footbridge to a point 50 metres north of the centreline of Great Saredon Road overbridge and allow traffic to run on the hardshoulder.

The work is expected to start on Tuesday 19 June 2018 and will be carried out in phases over a 5 month period. The work will be carried out overnight between 21:00 hours to 06:00 hours Monday to Thursday; 21:00 hours Friday to 09:00 hours Saturday; 20:00 hours Saturday to 09:00 Sunday; and 20:00 hours Sunday to 06:00 Monday. The order will come into force on 18 June 2018.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority or ambulance purposes, vehicles being used by a traffic officer and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures.

Diversion routes via the A5, the A460 and the M6 will be signed.

For further information please contact Christopher Bate of Highways England Company Limited on 0300 470 2814.

A Brunning, a Divisional Director in the Department for Transport.

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RAF runners fly to a record relay run

RUNNERS have smashed a relay world record by more than four hours at RAF Cosford. The challenge saw 100 members of the RAF clock up consecutive 10 kilometre runs on the athletics track at the air force base in 64 hours, 36 minutes and 22 seconds.

The previous record was set in Palos Heights in Illinois, in June, 2015 at 69 hours, six minutes and 52 seconds.

Servicemen and women are now waiting with bated breath for the Guinness World Record adjudicators to verify their attempt. Runners from air force bases across the UK descended on Shropshire for the attempt.

The final 10k leg was run by senior aircraftsman Michael Kallenberg, the venture's chief organiser. He said: "It has been a long three or four days, but we're all delighted that we've broken the record. I was quite lucky doing the final leg, I got to enjoy it and lap it up as it were.

"I just thought, with it being the 100th anniversary of the RAF, it would be nice to set a new world record in celebration."

Howzat! New cricket pitches now on way

THREE all-weather cricket practice pitches and a basketball court are to be created as part of a £150,000 new sports centre.

Wolverhampton Council is working with the England and Wales Cricket Board on the scheme for Peace Green, which is off the Dunstall Road, Dunstall Hill. Work is due to start over the next few weeks. It is hoped that the facilities will be ready in September.

Health

Artificial cricket wickets are also set for East Park, Claregate Playing Fields, Fowlers Park, Newbridge Playing Fields, King George V Playing Fields in Wednesfield, Goodyear park off the Stafford Road and Ward Street in Bilston.

Councillor Hazel Malcolm, cabinet member for public health, said: "These facilities will have a major role to play in improving health and well-being."

Back in best shape for this fight – Davis

BIRMINGHAM super bantamweight, Sean 'Showtime' Davis, is looking forward to his ring return. Davis, is set to fight on BCB Promotions Emerging Stars card on Saturday, June 9.

The Brummie boxer has been in a number of high profile bouts, including fights for the WBC International Super Bantamweight Title and BBBofC British Super Bantamweight Title, and is looking forward to stepping back in the squared circle.

"I am feeling great and I am back in the best shape possible," he told www.bcb-promotions.com. "It has been a long time since my last fight and I am really happy to get back in the ring. The work rate for me has always been very high but I seemed to have found a new level of fitness."

Davis made the difficult decision to move trainers from Peter Christie to Shaun Cogan earlier this year. It was a tough call to make for the likeable 26 year-old, having been with Christie since childhood. However, he is enjoying life under his new mentor.

MVP Olivia Gonsalves scores for Olympia Cannock

Athalia Imbanga bursts through for Cannock

Girl power! Team gets hands on national title

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"It is really difficult to win the national two years ago so this really is a fantastic achievement."

The Olympia team celebrate their success, which follows last year's win

A TALENTED handball team is celebrating after being crowned national champions for the second successive year.

Cannock Olympia reclaimed their under-19s national handball title after beating Stroud at the Derby Arena.

The victory is the latest in a long line of success for the team which is coached by Maria Moore.

Over the past few years, the Olympia under-19s team have reached 10 national finals, winning eight of them.

Olivia Gonsalves, Athalia Imbanga, Ellie Smith, Annie Hicklin and Mia Williams all played starring roles in their latest triumph – with Imbanga netting in the final 20 seconds to secure the 24-23 win over Stroud.

And club chairman Nenad 'Pop' Popovic believes the girls' success will never be repeated.

Special

"It is really difficult to win the national two years ago so this really is a fantastic achievement," he said. "The success of this team will never be repeated.

"It is special because all the girls attend Cardinal Griffin Catholic College except for one who is from Sutton Coldfield.

"They have now played in 10 national finals, winning eight of them and have only ever lost one game in their age category. The girls are a credit to Cannock and the area."

Following the performance at the Derby Arena, Gonsalves was crowned Most Value Player for the second successive year. And while she is too old to play for the team next year, Popovic isn't ruling out a hat-trick of national titles.

"All but three of the girls are eligible to play for the under-19s next year," he added.

"Some of them are going off to play in the senior for Manchester Hawks.

"It could be a hat-trick of victories but it is going to be very difficult.

"Gonsalves was crowned MVP but she can't play next year because she is too old by three days which she isn't happy about.

"But this is a fantastic team full of talented players so they will give it everything."

Meanwhile, Popovic thanked team sponsor Cameron Homes for the role they have played in the team's success.

"We have all benefited from the support of Cameron Homes who are drivers behind girls' handball in the area," he added.

"Because of all the support they have given us we have been able to grow and attract girls from further afield.

"We have now got a host of talented youngsters coming through the ranks and they'll ensure the club is successful for many years."

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Sport

Girls keep their hands in to reach the very top

See page 51

Rugeley are skittled out for just 67

WALMLEY secured a six-wicket win over Penkridge who crawled to 110-9 in 43 overs in the Birmingham League Division Two.

Walmley's Andrew Hendry struck 49 from 48 balls to steer his side to a comfortable win in 27 overs. Rugby's 71 run success at Lichfield took them to the top of the Division Three table.

Rugby battled to 134 all out with number nine batsman Vishaal Rathod top scoring with 24. Tom Stone took 5-42 for Lichfield and Jack Warren snapped up 4-31. Lichfield folded to 63 all out in 28.1 overs as just one batsman reached double figures.

Handsworth defeated Milford Hall by 29 runs in a match reduced to 42 overs per side. A 67 from Gawayne Evans and 51 from Nasir Ali Khan took Handsworth to 170-6 with Tom Webb taking 3-53 for Milford, who were dismissed for 141. James Davis hit 67 but Ali Khan took 5-18.

In the Staffs Clubs championship, Rugeley were shot out for just 67 by Penn – and promptly fell to an eight-wicket defeat. Rugeley's Tom Nutting claimed 4-30.

A 56 from Daniel Wilks and 49 not out from Dexian Urquhart took Whittington to 259-8. Hammerwich fell 81 runs short in reply, being bowled out for 178.

Erin bound for glory at gymnastics

A GYMNAST is jumping for joy at a 10th place finish in a top competition.

Erin Frost, a Year7 student at Kingsmead School, Hednesford, competed with Hannah Millington from Newport in the British NDP Championships, representing South Staffs Acrobatics.

They successfully achieved 10th place in their category, the Women's Grade 4 Pairs, which means they are 10th in the country.

Erin trains several hours a week and has won numerous gold, silver and bronze medals since joining the club four years ago. This is the second time Erin has represented her club at the British NDP Championships – two years ago she was placed 11th in the Grade 3 Trios group.

Erin's family are extremely proud of her achievements.

A school spokesman said: "Erin is a very talented and dedicated student. Her achievements in gymnastics are a reward for all of her hard work, effort and commitment she has put into her training.

"I'm sure that with this continued commitment Erin and Hannah will achieve further success in the future."

Wyrley miss out in spot-kick agony

WYRLEY Juniors Reserves agonisingly missed out on the Beacon League Concentric Sales & Lettings Clinton Cup, going down in a penalty shoot-out to Pensnett Panthers.

Normal regulation time failed to find a winner and following an additional 30 minutes extra-time, the teams remained deadlocked at 2-2.

Wyrley provided most of the early threat on goal, Bobby Khakh firing wide after just three minutes, while Jake Richardson's finish lacked the quality to trouble Matt Bateman in the Pensnett goal. Panthers opened up a slender half-time lead, however, when Max Berrow hit a stunning strike from 25 yards that found its way in off the angle of post and crossbar.

Wyrley were level just after the restart, Khakh heading home a pinpoint cross from man-of-the-match Tamari Maxwell.

Scott Lloyd headed against the bar for Panthers before Wyrley forged ahead for the first time on 67 minutes, Maxwell crossing for Stefan Bernard to nod in from close range. With time running out, Pensnett surged forward in search of the equaliser and with the ball running loose in the box, skipper Lloyd smashed the ball home with four minutes remaining to set up extra-time.

When it came down to spot-kicks, Panthers held their nerve to net all four of their kicks, while Bernard and Maxwell saw their spot-kicks saved by the impressive Bateman.

Lloyd received the trophy from league co-founder David Clinton to the delight of the watching Pensnett supporters.

LAUNCH DAY FOR LEAGUE

A CRICKET league for adults with disabilities is being launched at Rugeley Cricket Club this weekend.

The English and Wales Cricket Board want all counties to have a disabled cricket league in place by 2020.

Staffordshire's Kwik cricket T20 league is due to begin at the start of July and finish back at Rugeley with a finals day on Sunday, August 19.

Six teams have already signed up for this summer's competition but it is hoped more will join in the coming weeks and the league is on the lookout for players.

Adults with both learning and physical disabilities are being encouraged to head to Rugeley on Sunday to see if they want to join in.

The league has been set up by Staffordshire Cricket and care company Hayward Befriending.

Isolation

Nick Morris, from Hayward Befriending, said: "This is an initiative aimed at alleviating the signs and symptoms of loneliness and isolation in the community through a chance to try cricket and play regularly for local cricket clubs within an organised structure.

"Something many of us take for granted, true inclusion, is something we're very passionate about.

"The launch day will be very much about participation. This is a taster day for adults with learning and physical disabilities to be coached by qualified ECB coaches, play some small sided matches and socialise afterwards in the clubhouse with a disco from 5pm.

"So far we have teams from Rugeley, Cannock, Stafford, Codsall, Forton and Uttoxeter who want to play in the league, with others soon to be announced."

The launch day starts at 2pm and there will be food available on site.

Staffordshire Cricket and Rugeley Cricket Club are providing Kwik Cricket equipment like bats, soft balls, and stumps.

Team scores with district win

The successful Penkridge Middle School side with head of PE Mr Sutton

A PENKRIDGE school team has lifted the Stafford District Sports Association Cup.

The Year 7 team from Penkridge Middle beat Weston Road High School 5-0 in the final at Stone Dominoes. It followed a 6-2 semi-final victory over Sir Graham Balfour High.

A spokesman from the Marsh Lane school was full of praise for the winning squad, made up of Noah Paton, Jamie Roberts, Mason Goddard, Daniel Hughes, Doug Hughes, Braden Webb, Callum Duff, Harrison Smallman, James Barnett, Will Jarvis, Finley Murray, and Alfie Hughes.

The spokesman said: "The team gave the spectators a fantastic game, demonstrating brilliant skills, teamwork and great goals. Every player on this team showed that they wanted to win and had the ability to do so."

Boss calls time on post at Sporting

ANDY Paddock has stepped down as Wolverhampton Sporting manager after winning the league title and cup.

Paddock resigned due to family and work commitments after the Great Wyrley-based team won promotion to the Midland League Premier Division.

He was at the helm for three-and-a-half seasons but believes he has taken them as far as he can go. Paddock said: "I have been thinking about stepping down for a bit. When I took over the club they were bottom of the league. Now we have won the league and I feel I have taken them as far as I can.

Andy Paddock

"This role takes a lot of time and commitment and to be honest I am at work quite a lot and have family commitments."

Sporting won the West Midlands League Premier Division and League Cup, but missed out on a third piece of silverware, losing 1-0 to Atherstone in the JW Hunt Cup.

Paddock thanked the club for their support and the players, who he called 'an amazing group' and believes they will surprise a few teams next season.

A club spokesman said they were 'disappointed' to see Paddock step down.

"We would like to wish 'Wokko' all the best and thank him for all his hard work and dedication," a statement said.

The search for a new manager has begun. Applications can be sent to wolvessporting@yahoo.co.uk

Don't be stumped by cricket club quiz

QUIZ buffs will hope they are not stumped by the questions – or caught out – at Cannock Cricket Club this weekend.

The club is staging a quiz to raise money to upgrade its facilities. It starts at 8pm on Saturday in the clubhouse at its Church Lane, Hatherton, base.

Entry is £2.50 per player for a maximum team of four.

Rounds include music, food and drink, history, politics and general knowledge. There will also be a prize draw and a cricket scratchcard.

★★★

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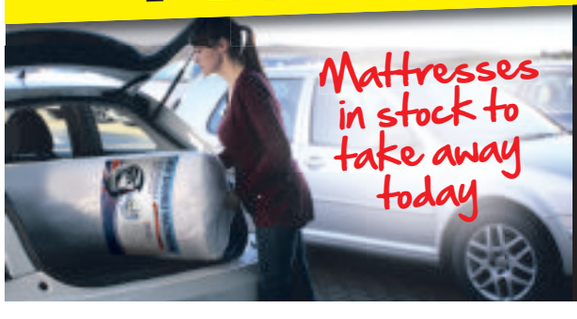

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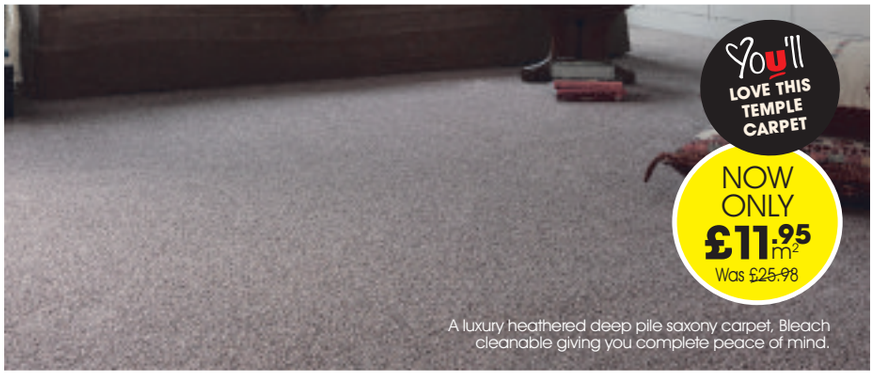

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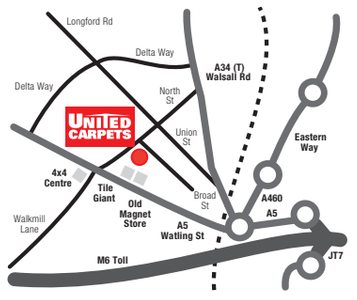

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